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NCPCR PETITION

SC to take up plea on Muslim girls' marriage

NEWS » PAGE 14

WORLD'S LONGEST

Ganga river cruise launched

NEWS » PAGE 13

RAGING BATTLE

Captured Ukraine's Soledar town: Russia

WORLD » PAGE 15

ASSEMBLY ROW

A constitutional duty, not merely an address

Governors should be above party politics

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

HOCKEY WORLD CUP

India off to a flyer with a win over Spain

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

Metro: HC initiates plea over safety measures

BENGALURU
The High Court of Karnataka on Friday ordered initiation of a PIL petition to examine the safety measures in place while executing the Namma Metro project. » Page 2

Voter list: Eligible Jenu Kuraba, Koragas enrolled

BENGALURU
The office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Karnataka, on a special drive, has enrolled all eligible voters of Jenu Kuruba and Koraga communities.

» Page 6

'Cong. promise aimed at Escom privatisation'

BENGALURU
Energy Minister V. Sunil Kumar has said privatisation of Escoms is the major motive behind the Congress promise of providing 200 units of free electricity if voted to power.

» Page 6

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 9

Rise in govt. capital spending pushes up investments by 53%

Seeing a surge

Total investment projects in the first nine months of FY23 have crossed ₹21 lakh crore, 53.2% higher than FY22. The share of government projects increased in FY23, by around 7% points compared to FY22, while that of private sector declined

Ownership	Q1-Q3 FY22	Q1-Q3 FY23
Government	28.56%	35.70%
Central govt.	14.21%	16.40%
State govt.	14.34%	19.30%
Private sector	71.44%	64.30%
Private (Indian)	62.50%	54.66%
Private (Foreign)	8.95%	9.64%
Total investments	**13,80,540 crore**	**21,14,773 crore**

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

A sharp 61.2% sequential increase in capital spending by the Central and State governments propped up overall fresh investment plans announced in the third quarter (Q3) of 2022-23 to ₹7.1 lakh crore, even though private sector investments dropped 41% from ₹6.31 lakh crore in Q2 to ₹3.71 lakh crore between October and December 2022.

Despite a 15.5% quarter-on-quarter decline in overall new investment plans in Q3 of the year, total investment projects in the first nine months of 2022-23 have crossed ₹21 lakh crore. This is 53.2% higher than 2021-22 and almost 2.5 times the investment plans announced in the pre-COVID year of 2019, as per the latest projects survey conducted by investment monitoring firm Projects Today.

The number of new projects announced in 2022-23 is 7,555, a tad lower than the 7,978 projects in the first nine months of 2021-22. But big-ticket private investments and higher capex outlays from government agencies lifted the total investment to ₹21,14,773 crore compared with ₹13,80,540 crore over the corresponding period a year earlier.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Joshimath sank 5.4 cm in 12 days, says ISRO report

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Joshimath town sank 5.4 cm in a period of just 12 days, according to a report released by the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on its website.

However, the report was removed from the website later on Friday.

Uttarakhand Cabinet Minister Dhan Singh Rawat told *The Hindu* that he spoke to the Director, NRSC-ISRO, and asked if the report which stated that Joshimath sank 5.4 cm in the past 12 days was their official take, and the director told him that they would update the report.

"I told them that how can they release such a report at this time. It is creating panic. They told me that they will update the report. Now, I am being told that it has been removed," Mr. Rawat said.

When *The Hindu* contacted NRSC-ISRO Director Prakash Chauhan to seek an explanation on why the report was later removed from the website, he didn't respond to repeated calls, texts and emails.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
GROUND ZERO
» PAGE 11

The buck stops with govt. to end hate speech: SC

Govt. should step in when religious freedom, harmony and orderly progress are gravely affected, says court and flags hate speech on TV where anchors have become tools to peddle 'agendas'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday said the "buck ultimately stops with the government" to clamp down on hate speech and hate crimes, as they are offences committed on society.

The government agreed that hate could not hide behind the colour of any religion.

"We would not have liked the government to come in at all, but in certain areas when religious freedom, harmony and orderly progress are gravely affected, it has to intervene... Today what are we fighting about? We have more important things to achieve as a nation – people are starving without jobs," Justice K.M. Joseph observed. Justice B.V. Nagarathna was also part of the Bench that was hearing a batch of petitions seeking curbs on hate speech.

> They [anchors/panellists] have to be very clear that they cannot go on TV and speak their minds whichever way they want... That is not the exercise of freedom... Freedom comes with responsibility
>
> **JUSTICE K.M. JOSEPH**
> Supreme Court

The remarks from the Bench came after Uttar Pradesh informed the court that it had registered 580 cases of hate speech in 2021-2022. Of these, 160 were *suo motu* registered by the police. Uttarakhand said it had filed 118 cases.

"This [hate speech] is a complete menace, nothing short of it," Justice Joseph said. During the hearing, the court highlighted the problem of hate speech on television. It said TV channels and their anchors have become tools to peddle particular "agendas", creating divisiveness and violent instincts in the society to win their TRP (television rating point) wars.

'Media not balanced'

"We require a free and balanced media. But they are not balanced... We have got TV for decades now, but you [government] have not thought of anything for TV. Therefore it has become a free-for-all," Justice Nagarathna said.

Asking if any anchor had been "taken off air" to send a message against triggering hate or bias on TV, the court said "if freedom is exercised with an agenda, you are not actually serving the people but some other cause. Then you have to be dealt with".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

List steps taken, Delhi Police told

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court directed the Delhi Police to file an affidavit listing the steps taken to probe cases of hate speech in the capital. » PAGE 12

Plan, NOC not needed to seek power connection

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Applying for power supply is set to get easier in Karnataka, with mandatory requirement of documents, such as sanction plan and NOC being done away with. The changes come with the notification of the Conditions of Supply of Electricity of Distribution Licensees in the State of Karnataka (Eleventh Amendment), 2023, and the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Recovery of Expenditure for Supply of Electricity) (Twelfth Amendment) Regulations, 2023.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

'Santro' Ravi arrested in Ahmedabad

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU/BENGALURU

K.S. Manjunath, 51, an alleged human trafficker known by the name 'Santro' Ravi, was arrested after a chase on the outskirts of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on Friday. He has been in the eye of a storm over his alleged role in police transfers and links to several ruling party politicians.

Manjunath is an accused in a rape and atrocity case registered against him by his wife at Vijayanagar police station, Mysuru, on January 2, and has been on the run since then. His wife alleged that she was drugged, raped, and forced into marriage in 2019. When she tried to get away from him, he got her arrested in a fake dacoity case in November 2022, she alleged. Meanwhile, his alleged political connections had turned into an embarrassment for the government.

ADGP Alok Kumar releasing the photo of K.S. Manjunath alias 'Santro' Ravi at a press meet in Mysuru on Friday. M.A. SRIRAM

Eluding police

"He had been changing his location, cars, phones and SIM cards frequently to mislead the police. He had been to Kerala, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. He entered Gujarat on Friday morning. We got a definite lead and immediately alerted the Gujarat police, with whose assistance we arrested him," said Alok Kumar, ADGP (Law and Order), announcing his arrest in Mysuru. "All due procedures will be followed and he will be brought to the State after obtaining a transit warrant," he said.

Mr. Kumar said the State police also arrested two men who were with him – Ramji, 45, from Kerala, and Srutesh, 35, from Mysuru – and their role is being probed. They had also arrested one of his close associates, Madhusudhan, from the State.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 4

Draft rules propose slashing legal age for buying liquor to 18 from 21

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

If the draft published to change the current Excise rules in Karnataka are finalised, the legal age for purchase of liquor could be reduced from 21 to 18 shortly.

Proposing changes to the Karnataka Excise (General Conditions of Licences) Rules, 1967, the Finance Department published the draft rules on January 10 and invited objections from the public that can be filed within 30 days. "Since the age for a person to be eligible to vote in the country is 18 years, the age for consuming liquor has also been proposed to be brought down to 18," Excise sources said, adding that a committee set up under retired bureaucrat V. Yashwanth had recommended changes to various rules.

It has been argued that it is consistent with the age fixed for a person to be eligible to vote

"Industry bodies had also raised, several times in the past, the issue of reducing the age. Many States have in the past reduced the legal age for purchase and consumption of alcohol to 18," the sources said.

Industry sources said that though the current legislation had explicitly banned persons below 21 from consuming liquor in the bar, the law had been seldom used. They welcomed the reduction of the age limit.

"There was an ambiguity about the age for consumption of liquor in the Excise Act and rules. The amendment to rules will be addressed through the changes. However, 21 is still the age limit for conducting liquor business in the State," Excise Department sources said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Will Djokovic's Australian cloak of invincibility survive last year's tear?

The nine-time Australian Open champion has often looked invulnerable in Melbourne. But can he repair his connection with the 'Happy Slam' after being deported in 2022 for breaching the country's vaccination requirement for in-bound travellers?

DJOKOVIC

> I want opponents to know that regardless of the score-line, I'm always there, I'm always fighting till the last shot, and I'm able to turn things around

Reuters
Associated Press

At their peak, great players exude a sense of inevitability, a sense that even the most determined foe will ultimately fall short. The greatest do something even more remarkable: they radiate that very feeling of the result being preordained even during off-peak hours.

Few things in tennis have seemed as inevitable as Novak Djokovic – among the greatest of all time – winning the first Major of the year in Melbourne. He has lifted the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup on nine of his previous 14 attempts, having first triumphed in 2008.

Indeed, Djokovic's dominance in Australia isn't limited to the Australian Open, where he has a win-rate of 91%. He hasn't lost a singles match in the country since his defeat to Hyeon Chung in the fourth round of the 2018 Australian Open. Unbeaten in 34 matches since then, Djokovic will want to extend that streak to 41 over the next fortnight, culminating in the final on January 29.

Despite his stunning success, the Serb's memories of his time Down Under will forever include an experience he has no desire to revisit or relive.

Djokovic missed last year's Australian Open when he was deported because his unvaccinated status breached the country's vaccination requirement for in-bound travellers. He was at the centre of a political storm after arriving with a medical exemption, with the decision to grant the nine-time champion entry outraging many in Australia as the nation battled a surge in infections.

Djokovic was also banned from Australia for three years after losing a high-stakes legal battle, which appeared the only obstacle standing between him and a 10th title. But that ban was waived in November and the 35-year-old received a warm welcome in Adelaide this month when he arrived for a warm-up event ahead of the hardcourt Major.

Djokovic certainly felt the love at the Adelaide International, which he won, and spoke about moving on from last year's episode. "It's one of those things that sticks with you, for, I guess, the rest of your life, but it is a valuable life experience," he said. "I have to move on. What you focus on, you become. If I focus on the negatives, that's what I'll attract, so I don't want to do that. I don't hold a grudge. Coming back to Australia speaks to how I feel about this country.

"If I have to pick one country where I've had the most success, which treated me in the best way in terms of tennis, it's here. I've had some epic matches. The circumstances last year were as they were... but I'm happy to be here, focus on tennis and enjoy my time with you guys.

"The support in the last 10 days was something that I don't think I've experienced too many times in my life. It definitely felt like playing at home. It's certainly a gift."

With one obstacle – that of entering Australia – out of the way, another – injury – raised its head. Djokovic hurt his hamstring in the semifinal win over Daniil Medvedev in Adelaide. But he showed no signs that the injury might derail his Australian Open campaign by saving a match-point to defeat Sebastian Korda 6-7(8), 7-6(3), 6-4 to claim his 92nd career singles title.

It was another instance of the Serb showcasing both his miraculous powers of physical recovery and his inexhaustible reserves of mental resilience. It's these two qualities, in addition to perhaps the most complete game in tennis history, that make him such a formidable opponent in best-of-five-set tennis over two weeks. He worked with a physiotherapist all night before the final – an inspiring commitment to digging deep in the quest for a solution.

> Coming back to Australia speaks to how I feel about this country. If I have to pick one country where I've had the most success, which treated me in the best way in terms of tennis, it's here

"It's an internal battle with myself because there's one voice that is always telling you: 'you can't do it, you're too tired', this and that, right? The bad guy and the good guy. You try to feed the good guy so he can become louder and stronger than the bad guy. It's as simple as that," Djokovic said, explaining his approach to dealing with physical and mental challenges.

Having tied Rafael Nadal's career singles tally (92) in Adelaide – only Jimmy Connors (109), Roger Federer (103) and Ivan Lendl (94) have collected more trophies than these two – Djokovic will have designs of pulling level with his great rival's Grand Slam total in Melbourne.

Nadal increased his count of Major titles to 22 last year by winning the Australian Open and Roland Garros. But Djokovic reduced the deficit at Wimbledon by claiming his 21st even as the Spaniard withdrew from the semifinals at the Championships with an abdominal tear.

Although Nadal has struggled since then, he will be one of Djokovic's biggest threats over the next fortnight if his body holds up. Their head-to-head is incredibly tight: 30-29 to Djokovic.

"The last few months haven't been easy for me," Nadal said, ahead of his title defence in Australia. "Main thing for me now is to recover the positive feelings on court, being competitive. I hope to. I am ready to make that happen, but let's see."

With World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz (1-0 vs. Djokovic head-to-head) pulling out, the list of players who can hope to threaten Djokovic's dominance on the hardcourts isn't long. Medvedev (4-9 vs. Djokovic) beat the Serb to win his only Major to date at the 2021 US Open, but has never defeated him in Australia. Like Medvedev, Dominic Thiem (5-7), Alexander Zverev (4-7) and Stefanos Tsitsipas (2-10) have multiple wins over Djokovic but losing head-to-head records.

It remains to be seen whether any of them can find their best in Melbourne.

Felix Auger-Aliassime (1-1) and Holger Rune (1-1, with the win coming in the final of last year's Paris Masters) are two others to keep an eye on, should their paths cross the 35-year-old's. Then there is 'frenemy' Nick Kyrgios, who lost last year's Wimbledon final, but is still 2-1 against Djokovic – the only player in the draw with a winning record spread over at least three matches.

Djokovic, however, isn't looking at what his rivals are doing but focusing on himself. "I look forward to Melbourne. Rod Laver is probably – not probably – it certainly is my most successful court in my career," he said. "I love playing there. I'm working on specific things in terms of my game, my body, and getting my mind in the right state for the best-of-five and hopefully for two long weeks."

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Carlos Alcaraz	19	6,820	17
2	Rafael Nadal	36	5,770	14
3	Casper Ruud	24	5,720	23
4	Stefanos Tsitsipas	24	5,715	23
5	Novak Djokovic	35	5,070	15
6	Andrey Rublev	25	3,930	24
7	Felix Auger-Aliassime	22	3,895	26
8	Daniil Medvedev	26	3,860	21
9	Taylor Fritz	25	3,545	22
10	Holger Rune	19	2,876	27
11	Hubert Hurkacz	25	2,860	21
12	Cameron Norrie	27	2,575	23
13	Alexander Zverev	25	2,560	18
14	Matteo Berrettini	26	2,490	19
15	Pablo Carreno Busta	31	2,420	23

Top Indians ▶

Prajnesh Gunneswaran
Rank 343 ▲ 5 spots

Sasikumar Mukund
Rank 394 ▼ 54 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Iga Swiatek	21	11,025	17
2	Ons Jabeur	28	5,180	19
3	Jessica Pegula	28	5,000	18
4	Caroline Garcia	29	4,415	22
5	Aryna Sabalenka	24	4,340	21
6	Maria Sakkari	27	3,921	22
7	Coco Gauff	18	3,871	19
8	Daria Kasatkina	25	3,380	23
9	Veronika Kudermetova	25	2,715	20
10	Madison Keys	27	2,597	20
11	Paula Badosa	25	2,387	21
12	Simona Halep	31	2,381	14
13	Belinda Bencic	25	2,365	20
14	Danielle Collins	29	2,288	14
15	Beatriz Haddad Maia	26	2,215	24

Top Indians ▶

Ankita Raina
Rank 260 ▲ 6 spots

Karman Thandi
Rank 267 ▲ 1 spot

English Premier League Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	17	14	2	1	40	14	26	44
2	Man. City	17	12	3	2	45	16	29	39
3	Newcastle	18	9	8	1	32	11	21	35
4	Man. United	17	11	2	4	27	20	7	35
5	Tottenham	18	10	3	5	37	25	12	33
6	Fulham	19	9	4	6	32	28	4	31
7	Liverpool	17	8	4	5	34	22	12	28
8	Brighton	17	8	3	6	32	25	7	27
9	Brentford	18	6	8	4	30	28	2	26
10	Chelsea	18	7	4	7	21	21	0	25
11	Aston Villa	18	6	4	8	20	26	-6	22
12	Crystal Palace	17	6	4	7	17	25	-8	22
13	Leicester City	18	5	2	11	26	31	-5	17
14	Leeds United	17	4	5	8	25	31	-6	17
15	Nott. Forest	18	4	5	9	13	34	-21	17
16	Bournemouth	18	4	4	10	18	39	-21	16
17	West Ham	18	4	3	11	15	24	-9	15
18	Everton	18	3	6	9	14	24	-10	15
19	Wolves	18	3	5	10	11	27	-16	14
20	Southampton	18	3	3	12	15	33	-18	12

Italian Serie A Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Napoli	17	14	2	1	39	13	26	44
2	Juventus	17	11	4	2	26	7	19	37
3	AC Milan	17	11	4	2	33	18	15	37
4	Inter Milan	17	11	1	5	37	24	13	34
5	Lazio	17	9	4	4	29	15	14	31
6	Atalanta	17	9	4	4	26	18	8	31
7	Roma	17	9	4	4	21	16	5	31
8	Udinese	17	6	7	4	25	19	6	25
9	Fiorentina	17	6	5	6	21	22	-1	23
10	Torino	17	6	5	6	18	19	-1	23
11	Lecce	17	4	7	6	16	18	-2	19
12	Bologna	17	5	4	8	21	28	-7	19
13	Empoli	17	4	7	6	15	22	-7	19
14	Salernitana	17	4	6	7	21	27	-6	18
15	Monza	17	5	3	9	19	25	-6	18
16	Sassuolo	17	4	4	9	17	26	-9	16
17	Spezia	17	3	6	8	16	28	-12	15
18	Verona	17	2	3	12	15	30	-15	9
19	Sampdoria	17	2	3	12	8	30	-22	9
20	Cremonese	17	0	7	10	11	29	-18	7

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	16	13	2	1	35	6	29	41
2	Real Madrid	16	12	2	2	36	16	20	38
3	Real Sociedad	16	10	2	4	23	17	6	32
4	Real Betis	16	8	4	4	19	13	6	28
5	Atletico Madrid	16	8	3	5	23	15	8	27
6	Villarreal	16	8	3	5	19	12	7	27
7	Athletic Bilbao	16	7	5	4	24	14	10	26
8	Osasuna	16	7	3	6	16	16	0	24
9	Rayo Vallecano	16	6	5	5	23	20	3	23
10	Real Mallorca	16	6	4	6	14	15	-1	22
11	Valencia	16	5	4	7	23	18	5	19
12	Girona	16	4	6	6	24	26	-2	18
13	Getafe	16	4	5	7	15	22	-7	17
14	Almeria	16	5	2	9	17	25	-8	17
15	Real Valladolid	16	5	2	9	13	24	-11	17
16	Celta Vigo	16	4	4	8	16	27	-11	16
17	Sevilla	16	3	6	7	16	24	-8	15
18	Cadiz	16	3	6	7	11	27	-16	15
19	Espanyol	16	2	8	6	19	25	-6	14
20	Elche	16	0	4	12	10	34	-24	4

German Bundesliga Standings

#	TEAM	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	15	10	4	1	49	13	36	34
2	SC Freiburg	15	9	3	3	25	17	8	30
3	RB Leipzig	15	8	4	3	30	21	9	28
4	Eintracht	15	8	3	4	32	24	8	27
5	Union Berlin	15	8	3	4	24	20	4	27
6	Dortmund	15	8	1	6	25	21	4	25
7	Wolfsburg	15	6	5	4	24	20	4	23
8	M'gladbach	15	6	4	5	28	24	4	22
9	Werder	15	6	3	6	25	27	-2	21
10	Mainz	15	5	4	6	19	24	-5	19
11	Hoffenheim	15	5	3	7	22	22	0	18
12	Leverkusen	15	5	3	7	25	26	-1	18
13	Cologne	15	4	5	6	21	29	-8	17
14	FC Augsburg	15	4	3	8	18	26	-8	15
15	Hertha Berlin	15	3	5	7	19	22	-3	14
16	Stuttgart	15	3	5	7	18	27	-9	14
17	Bochum	15	4	1	10	14	36	-22	13
18	Schalke	15	2	3	10	13	32	-19	9

Test Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Marnus Labuschagne	929	937
2	Steve Smith	892	947
3	Babar Azam	862	882
4	Travis Head	841	841
5	Joe Root	826	923
6	Kane Williamson	810	919
7	Rishabh Pant	797	801
8	Usman Khawaja	770	779
9	Dimuth Karunaratne	748	782
10	Rohit Sharma	732	813

Test Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Pat Cummins	878	914
2	James Anderson	835	903
3	Jasprit Bumrah	812	835
4	R. Ashwin	812	904
5	Ollie Robinson	805	805
6	Shaheen Afridi	787	836
7	Kagiso Rabada	776	902
8	Kyle Jamieson	772	836
9	Mitchell Starc	749	806
10	Josh Hazlewood	733	863

ODI Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Babar Azam	891	898
2	Rassie van der Dussen	766	796
3	Imam-ul-Haq	764	815
4	Quinton de Kock	759	813
5	David Warner	747	880
6	Virat Kohli	726	911
7	Steve Smith	719	752
8	Rohit Sharma	715	885
9	Jonny Bairstow	710	796
10	Fakhar Zaman	695	779

ODI Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Trent Boult	744	775
2	Josh Hazlewood	727	733
3	Mitchell Starc	665	783
4	Rashid Khan	659	806
5	Matt Henry	656	691
6	Adam Zampa	655	655
7	Shaheen Afridi	654	688
8	Shakib Al Hasan	652	717
9	Mustafizur Rahman	638	695
10	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	637	712

T20I Batting

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Suryakumar Yadav	908	908
2	Mohammad Rizwan	836	875
3	Devon Conway	788	831
4	Babar Azam	778	896
5	Aiden Markram	748	796
6	Dawid Malan	719	915
7	Glenn Phillips	699	703
8	Rilee Rossouw	693	693
9	Aaron Finch	680	900
10	Alex Hales	655	866

T20I Bowling

#	PLAYER	RATING	CAREER BEST
1	Rashid Khan	698	816
2	Wanindu Hasaranga	695	797
3	Adil Rashid	692	746
4	Josh Hazlewood	690	806
5	Sam Curran	688	688
6	Tabraiz Shamsi	681	821
7	Adam Zampa	678	743
8	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	677	745
9	Anrich Nortje	659	695
10	Maheesh Theekshana	643	680

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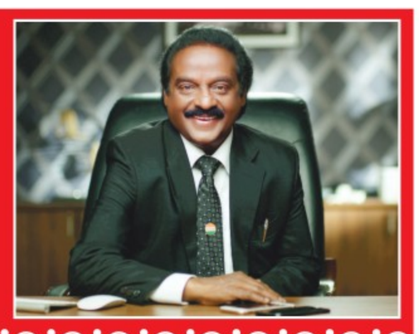

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INBRIEF

National Birds Day celebrated at Kristu Jayanti College

The Centre for Environment and Sustainability at Kristu Jayanti College on Wednesday had organized "Home and Food for Birds" to mark the National Birds Day. The event was aimed to create awareness on the plight of birds and to initiate the necessary changes to build a more sustainable relationship with birds.

According to a release, Dr. Fr. Augustine George, College principal, who presided over the event enlightened on the various initiatives taken by the college including coco peat production, terrace gardening and home for birds, in protecting the environment, saving biodiversity and sustainable development.

As part of the initiative, the students were engaged in creating handmade birds' nests and placed them across various locations within the college campus. They also created bird feeders with coconut shells and placed grains and water in them for the birds to feed. More than 75 of such eco-friendly bird nests and bird feeders were made by the students. An awareness program was also conducted in the campus.

NCC cadets clean up Lalbagh lake; collect 46 kg of plastic

The 3 Karnataka Battalion NCC under Group 'A', Bengaluru, conducted cleaning of Lalbagh lake under Puneet Sagar Abhiyan programme. As many as 93 cadets from various institutions of 3 Kar Bn NCC, Bengaluru, participated in the event. The cadets collected 46 kg of plastic and other waste and handed it over to a representative of Shakti Plastic, which produces various products from recycled plastic.

Spotlight

Read longform articles from our regional editions

- **Kerala:** Eating out, a walk on eggshells in Kerala
  bit.ly/EatingoutinKerala
- **Andhra Pradesh:** No more free rein for private players?
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Agencies blame each other for sinkhole on Brigade Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The officials of the BWSSB, who conducted an inspection of the area, maintained that no water pipe leakage was reported in the area and blamed tunnel works for the sinkhole

No government agency in the city is ready to take the blame for the sinkhole that appeared on Brigade Road on Thursday resulting in heavy traffic snarls in the Central Business District. A biker named Puneeth also suffered injuries.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had alleged that the ongoing tunnel works of Namma Metro was the reason for occurrence of the sinkhole.

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) countered the allegation, and pointed fingers at the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) for water pipe leakage.

The officials of the BWSSB, who conducted an inspection of the area, said no water pipe leakage was reported in the area and blamed tunnel works for the sinkhole.

TBM crossed area earlier: BMRCL

Anjum Parwez, BMRCL MD, reiterated that tunnel work between M.G. Road and Rashtriya Military School metro stations was nowhere linked to the appearance of the sinkhole.

"Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM) had already crossed the stretch five days ago. It crossed the area 10.5 metres below the ground and there was hard rock from 7.5 metres. We did not apply any pressure while crossing that particular area for drilling.

"However, when the sinkhole appeared, one could see stagnated water. Where water has come from, only the BWSSB can answer. We had asked them to investigate," he said.

He said that on Thursday evening, the sinkhole was filled with concrete mix and traffic was allowed from Friday afternoon.

No damage to pipeline, says BWSSB'

On the other hand, Chief Engineer (East division) of the BWSSB L. Kumar Naik, said, "As per our investigation, the BWSSB water pipeline is located 20 feet from the sinkhole and we could not find any damages to the pipeline. We also noticed that in the surrounding area, water flow in the pipeline was normal and no disruptions were reported."

"If there were continued leakages in the water pipeline, the concrete mixture poured inside the sinkhole could not have settled. After filling the sinkhole, the traffic was allowed in the area," he said.

When we checked with the engineers who had previously worked with the Namma Metro, they replied that the appearance of the sinkhole during the tunnel work had been reported earlier too in other parts of the city. After our inspection, we can clearly say there was no leakage in the water pipeline" he said.

HC *suo motu* initiates PIL to examine safety measures in Namma Metro project

A Bench headed by Chief Justice took cognisance of the death of a woman and her son, and formation of a sinkhole due to Namma Metro work, based on reports published in newspapers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Metro workers filling the sinkhole on Brigade road, near Shoolay Circle, on Friday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday took *suo motu* cognisance of two incidents – death of a woman and her two-and-a-half-year-old son and formation of sinkhole due to ongoing work of the Namma Metro project – and ordered initiation of a PIL petition to examine the safety measures in place while executing the project.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi passed the order while taking note of reports published in newspapers on the death of the woman and her son after a metal reinforcement structure fell on them when they were riding pillion on a two-wheeler on January 10, and formation of a sinkhole at Shoolay Circle on Brigade Road on Thursday due to underground tunnelling work.

Stating that issues related to safety measures are required to be examined, the bench carved out five points:

1. What are the safety measures for the Namma Metro work?
2. Are they part of tender/ contract agreements?
3. If they aren't part of tender or contract agreements, is any attempt made to set up safety measures by issuing government orders or notifications?
4. If safety measures are prescribed, what is the mechanism for periodical supervision and checks at the construction sites?
5. Is accountability fixed on contractors, agencies, and officials for failure to maintain safety measures?

Parties to be involved in PIL petition

The Bench directed the registrar-general of the court to make the State government, the BMRCL, the BBMP, contractors and other agencies as parties to the proceeding.

Team of two professors from IIT Hyderabad visits accident site

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A team of two professors from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad visited the accident site near Nagawara on Friday, where the reinforcement for an under-construction metro pillar crashed, killing a mother and her son near Nagawara recently.

The team of two professors from Civil Engineering Department, IIT Hyderabad will submit their expert opinion on the accident to Bengaluru City Police shortly. The team arrived in the city after being requested by the city police.

City police's decision

The city police, who had earlier requested the Indian Institute of Science to probe the accident and submit a report, put it on hold and roped in IIT, Hyderabad, instead. "IISc is on various expert panels of BMRCL, which had already requested the Institute to submit a report. So, we decided to rope in a neutral agency to provide us with the expert opinion," a senior official said.

60 Defence Forces officers complete management course at IIMB

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Major General Sharad Kapur, YSM, SM, Director General, Resettlement, Ministry of Defence, GoI on Friday handed over certificates to 60 officers from the Defence Forces who successfully completed the Business Management Programme for Defence Officers, designed and delivered by IIM Bangalore. The Director of IIMB, Professor Rishikesha T. Krishnan, addressed the participants at the valedictory function.

The Business Management Programme was anchored by a four-faculty team at IIMB comprising Prof. G Shainesh (Marketing), Prof. Vasanthi Srinivasan (OB and HRM), Prof. Padmini Srinivasan (Finance) and Prof. P D Jose (Strategy).

The Business Management Programme is a certificate programme for retiring officers of the Short Service Commission (SSC)/ Indian Defence Forces. It helps impart skills and knowledge needed for officers to transition to corporate careers by developing their core business and general management competencies, said a release.

The officers actively participated in case studies, discussions, role-play, interactions with industry practitioners. They benefited immensely through networking on the IIMB campus, the release stated.

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No:EE/BSWML/TEND/13/2022-23 Date:13.01.2023

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

1. The Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML invites tenders on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the Project management consultancy works detailed in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for works given in the table through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**). The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified as per KC-6 and KC-7 standard tender documents.
2. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka.
3. Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **16.00 hours on 27.01.2023** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines.
4. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl No	Name of work	PMC Cost Rs.in Lakhs	EMD in Rs
1.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of Improvements to Roads, Drains and other developmental works including spraying bio product solution/ enzymes to surrounding villages of Bangalore South Taluk and Anekal Taluk (Package-S1), Improvements to Roads, Drains and other developmental works including spraying bio product solution/ enzymes to surrounding villages of Bangalore South Taluk and Anekal Taluk (Package-S2) and Comprehensive Development of Roads and Drains & Bettadasanapura and surrounding layout area and improvements to konapanaagrahara lake in Bengalore South Taluk and Anekal Taluk (Package-S3).	19.99	40,000/-
2.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of Establishment of new scientific landfill at Mittaganahalli Sy. No. 2 Balance Pits and its one-time development including O&M.	32.02	65,000/-
3.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of Scientific Closure of Balance Portion of Mittaganahalli Sy. No. 2 and Bellahalli Sy. No.13 landfill sites including leachate trench and storm water drain.	28.03	56,500/-
4.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of Establishment of 4 numbers of leachate collection points at Mittaganahlli sy. No. 02 and Kannur sy.No. 50, Construction of SWD and development of other allied civil works located to scientific landfill and surrounding village development works of Byatarayanapura Assembly Constituency.	38.54	77,500/-
5.	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the work of Establishment of scientific landfill site and its one time Development including O&M in Baiyappanahalli Sy No.80 & surrounding Village Development works in Byatarayanapura Constituency.	39.85	80,000/-

NOTE:
1. Qualification documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded to the e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** as per tender document on or before**16:00 hours on 27-01-2023** and First Folder containing the Techno-Commercial tender will be opened through e-portal only on **30-01-2023 after 16:30 hours** at the stipulated venue, in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the tenders as specified, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
2. Pre bid meeting will be held on **20-01-2023 at 15:00 hours** in office of the CE &CGM (Tech), BSWML, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru- 560 026.
3. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control.Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderer's responsibility to verify the e-procurement portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com**. E-procurement portal helpdesk telephone numbers are: **080-22371090/22373788.**The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders.The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of e-procurement portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
4. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the E-Procurement portalonly.
5. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

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Rahm begins to look the part

The Spaniard's astonishing triumph in Hawaii came in Tiger Woods' signature red and black, thanks to a happy wardrobe accident. But he delivered a performance worthy of the famous combination and appears primed this year to add to his lone Major title

Reuters
Associated Press

Jon Rahm is playing like the best golfer in the world and dressing like one of the greatest of all time. The 2021 US Open champion won the Sentry Tournament of Champions in Hawaii last weekend with a comeback for the ages, overhauling Collin Morikawa's seven-shot lead in the final round. And he did it in red and black, Tiger Woods' combination for title-chasing Sundays.

While the quality of Rahm's play isn't an accident, his sartorial choice in Hawaii was. He had forgotten to carry all of his belts, which forced him into a last-minute wardrobe change; it made such an impression that after the triumph, he spent more time talking about his approach to picking an outfit than about his approach shots to the green.

"I usually don't want to wear anything that's close to red with black on Sundays because of Tiger. That's his outfit," said Rahm. "That's why I usually wear grey or navy. But you want to know the honest truth? I forgot almost all the belts I was supposed to bring.

A story about belts

"So I had a navy belt and a black belt. And I told [wife] Kelley, 'I'm not about to be as hot as hell all week wearing black pants and darker shirts, so navy it is.' Then I went to Sunday and just didn't want to wear navy anymore. I forgot my belts, that's all it is."

Rahm certainly delivered a performance that lived up to the famous combination, flipping the tables during a wild hour on the Plantation Course at Kapalua on Sunday while Morikawa imploded. Although it was a victory even Rahm never saw coming, it was a statement triumph.

It continued his red-hot streak of form: the Spaniard now has three victories worldwide from his last five tournaments. Having also won the Spanish Open and DP World Tour Championship, the former World No. 1 was hoping to climb up the rankings, at least move past Patrick Cantlay into fourth spot. But he still sits in fifth place.

> I usually don't want to wear anything that's close to red with black on Sundays because of Tiger. That's his outfit

After describing the revamped world rankings system as "laughable" last year when priority was placed on field-depth rather than the ranks of the players involved, Rahm, who believes he is currently the "best player in the world", questioned the system again.

"Had they not changed the world ranking points [system], I would have been pretty damn close [to No. 1] right now," he said. "But in my mind, I feel like since August I've been the best player in the world. Earlier in the year, clearly Scottie [Scheffler] was that player, then Rory [McIlroy] was that player, and I feel like right now it's me."

McIlroy remains at the top of the rankings followed by Masters champion Scheffler, Open winner Cameron Smith and Cantlay. But Rahm's performances suggest that he is primed to add to his trophy case – especially the big ones to go along with his lone Major title, the US Open at oceanside Torrey Pines two years ago.

He was most disappointed in failing to register a top 10 in any of the Majors in 2022. But since last August, with the start of the PGA Tour's postseason, Rahm has played nine times around the world and finished out of the top 10 only once. The win in Hawaii means he now has a title in each of his seven full years on tour, an excellent record for someone who is still only 28.

Born in the small coastal town of Barrika in Spain, Rahm showed such early promise that he attended Arizona State University on a golf scholarship and became World Amateur No. 1 in 2015. Not everyone recognised his potential, however.

His future wife Kelley, who played tennis as a junior and threw the javelin at Arizona State, didn't think Rahm was much good with the clubs. "I thought he was very far down on the team, like one of the worst players," she said. "He never talked about golf. His roommates were always talking about how they finished. I just thought they were all better than him."

By the time Kelley showed up at her first golf tournament, Rahm had already won the Ben Hogan Award as the best college player in the USA, but she didn't know it! She arrived with a girlfriend of another Arizona State player and asked the mother of a UCLA player for directions.

GETTY IMAGES

> We all want to break a lot of records, but you have to take it week by week. What I can say is I'm going to try my absolute hardest every day of the year to be the best golfer I can be

43 weeks
Although currently ranked fifth, Rahm has spent more than 10 months as World No. 1 over four reigns. He was also the top-ranked amateur for 60 weeks before turning pro in 2016

An amateur prodigy

"We were like, 'We're looking for two people, my friend's boyfriend and the other is, well, you won't know him, but his name is Jon Rahm,'" Kelley said. "She's like, 'Honey, he's very good. He might win the tournament.'"

Rahm tied for fourth that week and it wasn't long before Kelley figured out that her eventual husband, who became the first player to win a second Ben Hogan Award in 2016, was indeed very good. His tally of 11 college tournament wins is second only to Phil Mickelson's 16.

Rahm announced himself on the world stage in 2020, becoming the first Spaniard since Seve Ballesteros in 1989 to hold golf's top ranking, winning the US PGA Memorial tournament. But he is now a significantly better player than when he was No. 1.

There were questions about his short game, one writer even describing Rahm's putting problems as a "flatstick funk" in March 2022. But Rahm has answered those questions since.

"If you look at numbers, I think the main difference is I have been a bit more accurate on my approach shots but mainly making putts," he said. "I got a lot more comfortable with my putting. It's about as good as it's ever been.

Relax and putt

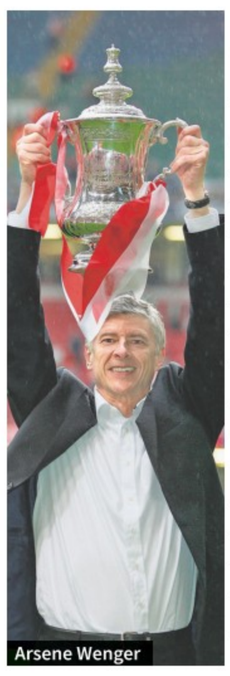
"Sometimes when you're working on something and it's not working properly, I can put too much attention to it and I can be thinking too much on what's going on with the putter, [but what has worked is] relaxing and getting out of being too technical and getting more into putting as an art."

Hugely competitive and strong under pressure, Rahm has the potential to cash in over the next few years at the Majors, but he is focused on the present. "We all want to break a lot of records, but you have to take it week by week," he said. "What I can say is I'm going to try my absolute hardest every day of the year to be the best golfer I can be. And that's all I can do, period."

GAME THEORY

England's knockout experts

The FA Cup is the world's oldest national football tournament, having been first played in 1871-72. With the Third Round Proper (where the Premier League and Championship clubs enter) having begun last week, we take a look at the knockout competition's most succesful clubs and managers:


Arsene Wenger

MOST TITLES: CLUBS

Club	FA Cup titles	Runners-up	Final win rate	First title	Most recent title
Arsenal	14	7	66.67%	1930	2020
Manchester United	12	8	60.00%	1909	2016
Chelsea	8	8	50.00%	1970	2018
Liverpool	8	7	53.33%	1965	2022
Tottenham Hotspur	8	1	88.89%	1901	1991
Aston Villa	7	4	63.64%	1887	1957
Newcastle United	6	7	46.15%	1910	1955
Manchester City	6	5	54.55%	1904	2019
Blackburn Rovers	6	2	75.00%	1884	1928
Everton	5	8	38.46%	1906	1995
West Bromwich Albion	5	5	50.00%	1888	1968
Wanderers	5	0	100.00%	1872	1878
Wolverhampton Wanderers	4	4	50.00%	1893	1960
Bolton Wanderers	4	3	57.14%	1923	1958
Sheffield United	4	2	66.67%	1899	1925
Sheffield Wednesday	3	3	50.00%	1896	1935
West Ham United	3	2	60.00%	1964	1980

MOST TITLES: MANAGER

Manager	FA Cup Titles	Editions won	Club
Arsene Wenger	7	1998, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2014, 2015, 2017	Arsenal
George Ramsay	6	1887, 1895, 1897, 1905, 1913, 1920	Aston Villa
Alex Ferguson	5	1990, 1994, 1996, 1999, 2004	Manchester United
John Nicholson	4	1899, 1902, 1915, 1925	Sheffield United
James Fielding	3	1884, 1885, 1886	Blackburn Rovers
Charles Foweraker	3	1923, 1926, 1929	Bolton Wanderers
Bill Nicholson	3	1961, 1962, 1967	Tottenham Hotspur

PICTURE THIS

HARRY TRUMP/GETTY IMAGES

Relish a pickle?

The leisure sport of pickleball has grown rapidly over the last few years, especially in the United States, where there are an estimated 5 million players, but also in other parts of the world.

It draws heavily from other racquet sports and its name reportedly refers to this derivative aspect: pickleball comes from rowing's 'pickle boat', a team made up of 'left-over' rowers who were not selected as the primary competitors.

Invented in Washington in 1965 as a children's backyard game, pickleball resembles tennis played with solid-faced paddles — imagine giant table tennis paddles — and a perforated plastic ball. A pickleball court looks like a tennis court, but is the size of a doubles badminton court.

Pickleball's rising popularity is a consequence of how easy it is to pick up for beginners, its appeal to people of varying ages and fitness levels, and the relatively low costs of putting a game together. It's no surprise that this popularity has translated into the sprouting of professional leagues.

Pickleball has its critics, however. The sound of the hard ball striking the paddle can get tiresome for neighbouring residents!

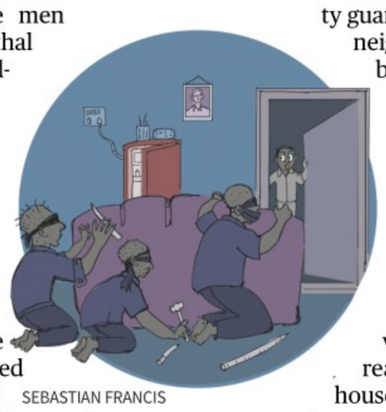
Resident's presence of mind helps police bust gang of seven dacoits

After viewing the CCTV live feed, the house owner finds thieves hiding in rooms. He quickly locks them up, and alerts the neighbour, who, in turn, calls up the police control room. Police team reach the spot in 10 minutes, and arrest the dacoits

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The presence of mind shown by a resident not only saved him from seven dacoits, who had broken into his house, but also led to their arrest.

In the wee hours of January 11, Rahul Balagopal, a businessman and resident of Narayanapura on Kanakapura Road, woke up around 5 a.m., and went to the kitchen to make himself coffee. After noticing that the contents of the fridge had been ransacked, he grew suspicious, and went to the bedroom, from where he saw the live CCTV feed. That is when he spotted five men with lethal weapons hiding in various rooms.


SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

CCTV footage

He and his two children, seeing the live CCTV feed on their phones, distracted the gang members and successfully locked them up in different rooms. Later, they locked themselves up in the bedroom from where he called his father and a security guard from the neighbouring building, who in turn alerted the police control room 112. A Hoysala vehicle reached the house within 10 minutes. The police broke open the door and apprehended the five dacoits, saving the residents from being attacked. Their interrogation revealed that there were two others who were on the terrace watching out for any sign of danger. As the police went to the terrace, they had fled by then. Acting on leads given by those apprehended in the house, police tracked down the two absconding members to Anekal and arrested them within nine hours.

Palatial house targeted

The arrested are: Mohammed Ninaz, 21, from Bihar; Mohammed Imran Sheikh, 24, from Uttar Pradesh; Mohammed Faizal, 23; Ram Bilas, 27 from Rajasthan; Sunil Dange, 20, from Madhya Pradesh; Rajat Mallik, 21, from Odisha; and the kingpin of the gang Sheikh Kaleem, 22 from Bengaluru.

Members were all working in hotels and bars in a single neighbourhood in Mumbai where they befriended one another. Sheikh Kaleem, the only member from Bengaluru, also worked at various bars in Mumbai until a year ago. He invited others in the gang promising them big returns.

They targeted palatial houses on the outskirts of the city. While two men stood on the terrace of the house, others entered the house either from the terrace or through the backdoor. Police are now finding out if they were involved in other dacoities in the city or elsewhere.

Nippy weather to prevail for next few days in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The minimum and maximum temperature for January 15, 16 and 19 would be 14 degree celsius and 29 degree celsius respectively. FILE PHOTO

The weather in Bengaluru for the next few days is likely to be nippy as the minimum temperature would hover between 13 and 15 degree celsius.

As per the met department's local weather report and forecast for the next seven days, there would be fog and mist.

On Friday, the minimum temperature was 13 degree celsius and for January 14, the minimum temperature would be 13 degree celsius and the maximum 29 degree celsius.

The minimum and maximum temperature for January 15, 16 and 19 would be 14 degree celsius and 29 degree celsius respectively. The forecast for January 17 and 18 is 15 degree celsius (minimum) and 29 degree celsius (maximum).

With the minimum temperature at 13 degree celsius, it the lowest minimum recorded for the last four years.

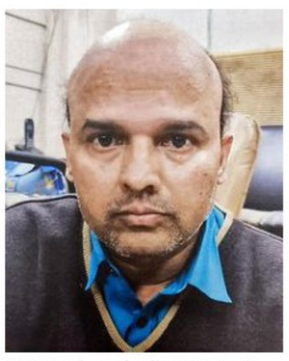
‘Santro’ Ravi: An alleged human trafficker in the corridors of power

K.S. Manjunath, 51, who later acquired the alias ‘Santro’ Ravi, as he used to allegedly abduct and traffic women in his ‘Santro’ car, hails from Mandya and is the son of a former Dy. SP from the Excise Department

K.V. Aditya Bhardwaj
BENGALURU

The saga of ‘Santro’ Ravi, arrested on Friday is the shocking story of how a man who allegedly trafficked and forced women into the flesh trade, made deep inroads into the corridors of power in Karnataka. Stories abound about his connections with several top politicians and senior police officials.

K.S. Manjunath, 51, who later acquired the alias ‘Santro’ Ravi, as he used to allegedly abduct and traffic women in his ‘Santro’ car, hails from Mandya and is the son of a former Dy. SP from the Excise Department. While police sources said he has had criminal records as far back as 1995, he attained notoriety as a human trafficker in the Mysuru region post 2000.


K.S. Manjunath alias ‘Santro’ Ravi.

“He mostly targeted tribal women in the Mysuru-Chamarajanagar belt,” said a senior police officer, adding that he promised jobs and ultimately pushed women into prostitution. In fact, his wife, who has now lodged a complaint against him, has alleged she walked into an interview organised by him in 2019, when he drugged, raped and forced her into marriage with him.

His notoriety was such that he was arrested under the draconian Goonda Act, 1985, over 10 cases of human trafficking by Mysuru Police as far back as 2005, when he spent 11 months in prison. He has over 20 cases for human trafficking and cheating pending against him in Mysuru and Bengaluru.

“Of late, he had grown too big as he developed links with several politicians. There are unverified rumours that he was also into blackmail. He exploited these associations to meddle with transfers and made huge money,” a senior police officer said.

Audio clip

An audio clip where ‘Santro’ Ravi purportedly speaking to a DySP from Bengaluru Rural district, bragging about his highly placed connections, had recently gone viral. In the audio he is reprimanding the officer for not calling him “sir” and claims even the Chief Minister calls him “sir.” He claims to have aided the transfers of several police officials and asks the officer to meet him at Kumara Krupa State Guest House.

Following this, former Chief Minister and JDS leader H.D. Kumaraswamy held a press conference and released several photos of ‘Santro’ Ravi with ministers and hinted at his alleged role in the “Mumbai episode” where defector MLAs who brought down his government in “Operation Kamala” in 2019 were holed up.

Photos and videos of ‘Santro’ Ravi with several ministers have since gone viral. Mr. Kumaraswamy also released his statement to RR Nagar police in which he accepted that he was helping police personnel in their transfers and claimed he was a “BJP worker.”

CM orders probe

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai ordered a probe into the activities of ‘Santro’ Ravi and claimed that “even politicians from the opposition” had links with him over the last 20 years. He said the whole truth would come out during the probe.

From Page One

‘Santro’ Ravi arrested in Ahmedabad

The police have raided ‘Santro’ Ravi’s R.R. Nagar residence in Bengaluru and recovered a cache of incriminating material, Mr. Kumar said.

HDK’s fresh charge

Janata Dal (S) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, who has been harping on the alleged links of ‘Santro’ Ravi with Ministers in the State, suspected that the arrest was pre-mediated.

“How could he go to Gujarat? Who allowed him to cross the State’s border? Was there a plan to send him off abroad?” he asked. He even linked Home Minister Araga Jnanendra’s recent visit to Gujarat to the arrest there. Mr. Kumaraswamy had earlier alleged ‘Santro’ Ravi had “counted money” at Mr. Jnanendra’s residence, a charge strongly denied by the Home Minister. On Friday, Mr. Jnanendra congratulated the State police for arresting Ravi.

‘Act against officials’

Parashuram of the Mysuru-based NGO Odanadi that is fighting against human trafficking cases, said that ‘Santro’ Ravi symbolised the rot that had crept into administration and his arrest was not something to be gloated over. “Far more important is to bring such officials to justice who allowed a free hand to the accused to meddle in administrative matters and thus compromised the authority of the State,” he said.

Murder accused arrested

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

Shivamogga police have arrested a person from Uttar Pradesh on charges of murdering a woman, who was found dead at Kimmane Golf Resort in Shivamogga two months ago.

Savithri, 45, who was working as housekeeping staff in the resort, was found dead on November 14. Based on the statement by her brother Ramesh, Tunga Nagar police registered an unnatural death report. Upon examining the medical report, the police developed suspicion about her death. Manjunath B., the police inspector of Tunga Nagar Police Station, during the investigation, found that Joginder, who was also working in the resort, missing since the incident took place.

The police, in a press release issued on Friday, said Joginder, 40, had an affair with the woman. He had left the place after murdering her on November 13, 2022. He had changed his cellphone as well. The police succeeded in tracing him to Basti district in UP and bring him to Shivamogga. The police have arrested Savithri’s brother Ramesh for supressing facts while filing the complaint.

Promote curiosity-driven basic research: Ron Vale

Ron Vale, vice president of Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Executive Director, Janelia Research Campus, greeting the audience when he was shown on big screen before his lecture on ‘Marvelous Molecular Motors’ during The TNQ Distinguished Lectures in the Life Sciences at J.N. Tata auditorium on Friday. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ron Vale, vice-president, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Maryland, United States, and Featured Speaker of the TNQ Distinguished Lectures in the Life Sciences-2023, on Friday said that curiosity-driven basic research is essential and should be promoted in India.

Dr. Vale addressing students and researchers at the J.N. Tata Auditorium, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), on “Marvelous Molecular Motors” said, “Curiosity-driven basic research is essential and I think we have to promote that in India and in the U.S. because that is the engine of the future.”

He also told the audience, especially the students, that they don’t have to make a famous discovery to feel the sense of excitement.

“I remember when I was in high school, I set up a laboratory in my basement and I had a small question that I was trying to answer ... There was something really thrilling in not just repeating a laboratory experiment that had been done thousands of millions of times, but coming up with your one question to solve, and learning something new that nobody else in humankind had ever known. That piece of knowledge, even if it is small, it’s something that you deal with and you solve. I think that is the joy of science and you know the incredible excitement of discovery,” he said.

Dr. Vale said that the key attributes that make a scientist great is curiosity and persistence.

“Some people ask me what it takes to be a great scientist and I would say that it is first of all curiosity. If you can keep that element of curiosity burning whether you are a high school student or an undergraduate student or head of an institute, it is fundamental for science. Another attribute which is very important is persistence. Not every experiment works. I would like to say nature does not give up secrets easily and you have sometimes to do many experiments, troubleshoot or find new ways to approach a problem,” said Dr. Vale.

‘No evidence of leopard in BU’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Forest Department said on Friday that there was no evidence of a leopard in Bangalore University. A video clip, purportedly showing the animal on the campus, had gone viral the previous day, following which the university issued an alert urging students and staff to be cautious and avoid travelling in the night.

“There is no direct or indirect evidence of a leopard inside the campus,” DCF Bengaluru Urban S.S. Ravishankar said. “Direct evidence refers to the animal being captured on CCTV or through video, and indirect evidence refers to spotting of pug marks or faecal matter. We did not find any evidence of either.”

He said the Bangalore University issued an alert on their own for the safety of their staff and students, and that they had not consulted the Forest Department before issuing it.

Dubare out of bounds for tourists temporarily

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Forest Department has closed the Dubare elephant camp for tourists for a few days.

The decision was taken in the interest of tourists’ safety as a wild tusker on musth is making forays into the elephant camp since the last few days and creating havoc among animals.

Two camp elephants - Gopi and Harsh - were injured in a duel with the wild tusker during the last two days as a result of which the authorities ordered closure of the camp for tourists so as to be on alert and focus on dealing with the “intruder”.

Elephant electrocuted in Doddabargi village

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A female elephant which strayed into an agricultural field was electrocuted in Doddabargi village abutting the Hediyala range of Bandipur Tiger Reserve.

The incident came to light on Friday and senior Forest Department officials who reached the spot on receiving information said that the accused, Gopal, had drawn electricity from the power lines illegally to protect his field from crop raiding by wild animals.

The authorities said the elephant was found dead in his farm after it had come into contact with the power line.

There is also another case pending against the accused in which he was charged with the death of another female elephant under similar circumstances on August 16, 2018.

A case was registered under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and is being heard in the Additional District and Sessions Court in Mysuru.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, JAN. 14		
RISE	06:45	SET 18:12
RISE	00:00	SET 11:37
SUNDAY, JAN. 15		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:12
RISE	00:09	SET 12:14
MONDAY, JAN. 16		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:13
RISE	00:59	SET 12:55

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	17
Mysuru	30	09
Bengaluru	30	13

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be comfortable and humid. Night will be cool with haze.

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THE HINDU
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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **DEENADAYALAN.V** S/o.Late Venkatesh R/at No.123, Sri Balaji 7th Cross, CIL Layout, Cholanayakanahalli, R.T.Nagar Post, Bangalore-560032, has lost the (i).Original Sale deed dt:24.8.1992, doc No.3264/92-93, (ii).Original Possession letter dt:24.8.1992 and (iii).Original allotment letter issued by the "Inspectorate Of Electronics Employees House Building Co-operative Society Limited" in favour of Vijayalakshmi.B, pertaining to Site No.123, Katha No.781/30 and 470/123 in the layout formed by the "Inspectorate Of Electronics Employees House Building Co-operative Society Limited" in the lands bearing Survey Nos.17, 17/1, 17/2, 18/1, 18/2A, 18/2B2, 18/2B1, 19, 23/1, 23/2, 24 and 25/1 of **Cholanayakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk,** now assigned as new Municipal No.123, BBMP PID No.96-14-123, situated at I of EE HBCS LTD, Cholanayakanahalli Old BBMP Ward No.96-Hebbal, new BBMP Ward No.22-Vishwanatha Nagenahalli, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 40 feet in all totally measuring 1200 sq feet consisting of 800 squares of Ground and First Floor RCC roofed duplex house.

The aforesaid documents have lost/misplaced on 18.12.2022 while shifting his house at Hebbala, Bangalore and also filed police complaint before the Hebbal Police Station, Hebbal, Bangalore, U/s 155 of Cr PC, vide Lost Report No.0442808/2023 on 12.1.2023 and any persons find the same handed over to the under mentioned address, within **15 days** from the date of publication, if not my client treat the same documents are not traced.

Smt. LAKSHMI.S Advocate,
No.4/A, 2nd Cross, Manorayanapalya,
R.T.Nagar Post, Bangalore - 560 032.
Mobile : 7760945196

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is issued on behalf of My client Sri.Deendayaalan S/o Sri.Mahadeva Naidu and Smt.Latha W/o Sri.Deendayaalan to bring the notice of the general public that they are intend **to purchase the schedule property** from **1.Smt.Nanjamma** w/o Late Sugnanappa, **2.Smt. Suvarnamma, 3.Smt. D.S. Chandrakala, 4.Sri.Prabhudeva.D.S, 5.Smt. Thrinethra.D.S,** Sl.Nos.2 to 5 are Children of Late Sugnanappa, **6.Sri.Sugnana Kumar.S** S/o Siddeshwara, **7.Sr.Bhuvana Kumar.S** S/o Siddeshwara Sl.Nos.1 to 7 are represented by their GPA holder Sri.Siddeshwar@ Siddesh and **8.Sri.Siddeshwar @ Siddesh** S/o Late Sugnanappa, **9.Sri.Chiranjeevi.H.S** S/o Chandrakala.D.S, **10.Sri.Punith Kumar.H.S** S/o Chandrakala.D.S rep by his GPA Holder Sri.Chiranjeevi.H.S. If any, person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the Schedule Property by way of inheritance, sale, agreement, mortgage, lease, lien, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within **Seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, with all supporting documents failing which reference to such claim and the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated as waived and not binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of immovable residential property bearing **Site / Plot Nos. 35 & 36,** formed in converted Sy.No.1/3 Doddabanahalli Grama Panchayati property No.150200401300720269, situated at **Chikkabanahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,** and measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 50 feet, in all measuring 3000 Sq.feet, and bounded by : **East by: Site No.34, West by: Site No.37, North by: Site No.23, 24, South by: 30 feet Road.**

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KUMBHAR Asmita Subhash is legally wedded spouse of No 10490372P Rank PTR, Name: Abhijit Kumbhar presently residing at Appachiwadi (Vill & Po), Chikodi (Teh), Belgaum (Dist), Karnataka-591241 that have declared to changed my name from Kumbhar Asmita Subhash to Asmita Abhijit Kumbhar vide affidavit dated 02 Jan 2023 before me K V Mani, B.A.LL.B, Bangalore.

I, SIDDESH Subramaniam Iyer ,S/O Subramaniam Krishnamoorathy Iyer , R/O C–204, Bren Paddington Apartments, Sarjapur Road, Bellandur, Bangalore – 560103, have changed my name as " Sidhesh Iyer " vide afdvt dtd 11/1/2023.

I, KRISHNAMURTHY Parvathamma, r/at No.09, Bhagerathi Nilaya Ayyappa Temple Street, Yelahanka, Bangalore 560064 have changed my name as Parvathi Krishnamurthy, vide affidavit dtd 13.01.2023 sworn before Notary A.Manjula, Bluru

I, Pragnya Deshpande alias Chaitra Deshpande D/o Ramesh Deshpande Wife of Pavan Deshpande, R/o: # 243 Raghavendra Math, Killa Gokak Belagavi, Belgaum, Karnataka-591307, changed my name to Pragnya Deshpande for all purposes in the future.

I, Shilpa S Kutty alias Shilpa Sarath D/o Sivankutty Govindannair, residing at E-405, DSR Greenfields, Nagondanahalli, Immadihalli Main Road, Whitefield, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560066, changed my name to Shilpa S Kutty for all purposes in future.

I, MOHAMED Ghouse residing at No.10, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Kanteerava Nagar, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru-560 096 have changed my name to Mohammad Ghouse vide affidavit dated 12.01.2023 sworn before Notary B.Prasanna, Bengaluru

I, MAGARAM, S/o Genaram residing at No.273/A, 1st B Cross, H M T Layout, Mathikere, Bengaluru-560054, Karnataka have changed my name to Magaram Genaram vide affidavit dated 13/01/2023 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RAJAMMA** spouse of No. 1067146W, Ex: Hav, Name: Gopala Krishna Gowda P, presently at Address No. 294, 6th 'D' Main, 2nd Stage, II Phase, West of Chord Road, Bangalore-560086, Karnataka, have changed my name from **RAJAMMA** to **RAJAMMA .K,** vide affidavit dated 11.01.2023 before Notary **Mr. SHANTHAPPA.**

I, AZEEZ Khan, S/o Late Azeez Khan, r/at No.27, 1st Floor, S No 1st Street, Seppings Road Cross, Bangalore 560001 have changed my name as Samiulla Khan vide affidavit dtd 13.01.2023 before Notary Meer Hassan, Bluru

I, SAIDANI Bee, W/o Samiulla Khan, r/at No.27, 1st Floor, S No 1st Street, Seppings Road Cross, Bangalore 560001 have changed my name as Munirunnisa, vide affidavit dtd 13.01.2023 before Notary Meer Hassan, Bluru

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Harini Krisshnan R/o. C-2298, Sahakara Nagar, Bengaluru-92 have Changed my Name from Harini Mukundan for all purposes.

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9940255449

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 26th ADDL. CITY CIVIL, JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 20)
O.S. No. 25827/2021
BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
V/s.
Mr. Subramani N.
...Defendant
Summons To Defendent
Mr. Subramani N.
S/o. Mr. Narayana Swamy,
Aged About 30 Years,
Venkateshappa Building,
Muneshwara Nilay,
3rd Floor, Door No. 301,
Bangalore- 560087
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 6,72,908.86/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Seventy Two Thousand Nine Hundred Eight and Paise Eighty Six Only)** apart from future interest of 18% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25827/2021** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 20,** Before Addl. City Civil Court. Mayohall, Bengaluru. You are hereby Summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **06th day of March 2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absenee, Ex-parte.
Given under my land and Seal of the Court this the 09th day of January, 2023
By order of the court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court, Mayohall,
Bengaluru- 560 001
FX. & Co. Advocates
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1
Gover Road Cox Town,
Bengalore- 560005

Govt. of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Vijayapur
Tel.No:08352-277816, Fax.No:08352-277817,
E-Mail:zpebjp9@yahoo.co.in
NO:EE/PRED/VJP/E-Proc/TND/2022-23/2717 Dated:11.01.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)

Tender called for the work in the above notification through E-mode tendering is read as below. Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement ACT 1999 and Rules 2000 STANDARD BID DOCUMENT KW-3 through electronic Tendering system (e-tender from Class -1 Contractor (Civil) registered in KPWD/PRED/ who have got adequate financial resources, state of technology, suitable construction equipments technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below.

1. Constructionf of CC Road in SC Colony at Hegadihal Tanda, Hegadihal and Aliyabad LT-1 Villages in Vijayapur Taluka Rs 100.00 Lakhs
2. Constructionf of CC Road in SC Colony at Inapur Tanda and Inapur Villages in Vijayapur Taluka Rs 100.00 Lakhs
3. Constructionf of CC Road in SC Colony at Buranapur Village in Vijayapur Taluka Rs 100.00 Lakhs

Details in this regard are available on website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contact the above office during office hours

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Vijayapur
ವಾಸಾಸಂಜ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/752/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that **Original Sale Deed** dated 23.02.1993 registered as document No.6507/1992-93 of Book-I & Volume.No.3707 at Pages No.214 to 221 in the office of the Sub-Registrar Bangalore South Taluk in respect of Site No.97 measuring 2840 Sq.ft., has been lost. All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Sale Deed. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within **7 days** from this present.

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor,
5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar
2nd Phase, Bangalore-560078. M : 9916343921

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INBRIEF

Che's daughter to attend CITU conference in Bengaluru

The five-day 17th all-India conference of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) will be held in Bengaluru from January 18 and will culminate with a rally of workers at the National College Grounds at Basavanagudi.

Among those participating in the conference are Aleida Guevara, daughter of Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara; general secretary of the World Federation of Trade Unions Pambis Kyritsis, CITU president K. Hemalatha, CITU general secretary Tapan Sen, and State general secretary Meenakshi Sundaram.

During the conference, a host of economic and social issues that the country is going through will be discussed.

Among the issues to be discussed are government policies that have led to price rise, failure of the government to protect the welfare of workers, and subsuming of 29 labour laws into four labour code that have severely affected the workers' rights.

Union Minister chairs meeting convened at FCI

The Union Minister of State for Rural Development, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti, chaired a meeting convened at the Food Corporation of India, Regional Office, Bengaluru, recently. It was attended by State-Level Consultative Committee members, State and Central government officers, and officers of the Central Warehousing Corporation and Food Corporation of India.

According to a release, B.S. Bhati, general manager (Karnataka), Food Corporation of India, briefed the Minister about the functioning of the corporation.

She was apprised that Karnataka is a decentralised procurement State and procurement of paddy, ragi and jowar is undertaken by the State government. Since the quantum being procured by the State government is insufficient to meet the requirement of the public distribution system, the FCI brings the stocks from north Chhattisgarh and Telangana to meet the requirement of the NFSA and other schemes.

All eligible from Jenu Kuraba, Koraga groups enrolled in voters' list

Special drives were conducted to enrol such people from these vulnerable communities

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Reaching out: Manoj Kumar Meena, Chief Electoral Officer for Karnataka, with tribal community members in Chamarajanagar district.

The office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Karnataka, on a special drive, has enrolled all eligible voters of two vulnerable tribal groups in Karnataka. With the enrolment of 1,437 people from the Jenu Kuruba and Koraga communities, the coverage of all eligible voters (those aged above 18) is 100% among them as per the final electoral rolls published on January 5, officials said.

As per the baseline survey of 2021 by the State Department of Tribal Welfare, the population of these two communities stood at 46,852 in the five districts of Chamarajanagar, Kodagu, Mysuru, Dakshina Kannada, and Udupi. Of these, 32,466 are eligible to vote. While 31,024 already had voter identification cards, it was a challenging task to enrol the remaining in remote areas. While 1,437 have been enrolled, five persons have migrated from Chamarajanagar district, officials said.

Manoj Kumar Meena, CEO for Karnataka, said special drives were conducted to enrol the remaining eligible voters from these communities. "The Deputy Commissioners of these five districts have certified that up to January 5 when the final electoral rolls of 2023 were published, all the eligible voters from these communities have been covered," he said.

Pointing out that he personally supervised the enrollment in Chamarajanagar and Kodagu, Mr. Meena said, "In Chamarajanagar, I found that the community members were shy and hesitant to meet others. But with the help of leaders from the Soliga tribe, we could talk to them. In Kodagu, they were more vocal and easy to talk to."

Tribal booths

Mr. Meena, who pointed out that inhabitants of remote tribal hamlets experience several physical and social constraints to turn out to vote, said, "To encourage them to vote, some polling booths in constituencies that have a sizable population of the tribal groups were decorated depicting local culture during the last election."

Another senior official in the office of the CEO, Karnataka, said, "The drop in the turnout of people from tribal settlements in the previous elections had prompted the Election Commission to come up with the concept of tribal booths. Non-governmental organisations working on tribal welfare will be roped in to help the administration in encouraging them to participate in the democratic process."

'Cong. promise of free power aimed at Escom privatisation'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While taking potshots at the Congress, Minister V. Sunil Kumar referred to the incident of Siddaramaiah presenting the Budget under torchlight.
FILE PHOTO

Taking potshots at the Congress over its promise of providing 200 units of free electricity if voted to power in the Assembly elections, Energy Minister V. Sunil Kumar has said privatisation of Escoms is the major motive behind it.

"One great financial expert who had pushed electricity supply companies (Escoms) into financial bankruptcy when he was Chief Minister has now promised 200 units of free power," he tweeted on Friday, referring to the former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. He argued the Congress' poll promise was not in the interest of the people.

Towards losses

"By providing free power, Escoms will be burdened more. Then, the loss-making Escoms will be privatised. That's the plan behind this announcement," the Minister claimed.

Mr. Kumar tweeted a photograph of Mr. Siddaramaiah presenting the 2017-18 Budget under a torchlight owing to power cut in the Legislative Assembly.

"Siddaramaiah must have forgotten how he read out the Budget speech as the Chief Minister in darkness. The photograph clearly shows how your government and the Energy Department functioned. You pushed Escoms towards losses," Mr. Kumar charged.

He said the BJP government released ₹9,000 crore to Escoms. "We set right your administrative failures," the Minister added.

'Learning from AAP'

The Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP too took a jibe at the Opposition Congress. "It's good that the Karnataka Congress is learning people-friendly measures from the AAP. Hopefully, they will include schools and safe transport, too," AAP leader Bhaskar Rao tweeted.

The State Congress announced the Griha Jyoti scheme during the start of its Praja Dhwani poll campaign led by KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar and Mr. Siddaramaiah.

Two more doctors held in drug case in Mangaluru

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Continuing the investigation into the drug peddling and consumption racket involving medicos, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) personnel of Mangaluru city police arrested two more doctors on charges of being involved in the racket.

The police on Friday gave the names of the doctors arrested on Thursday as Raghava Datta, 28, a postgraduate student in anaesthesia, and Balaji, 29, who pursued post-graduation in general medicine. Both studied at KMC in Mangaluru. Datta hailed from Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh and resided in an apartment at Attavara in Mangaluru. Balaji, who hailed from Jogupalya in Bengaluru, lived in an apartment at Falnir in Mangaluru.

Some suspects flee city

Police Commissioner N. Shashi Kumar told media-persons on Friday that of the two doctors, one is a practicing doctor. He used to host small parties in his flat where he used to distribute cannabis to students and his friends.

Mr. Kumar said that some more suspects have fled from their apartments, hostel rooms, and paying guest accommodation.

The Police Commissioner said that those managing paying guest accommodation, hostels and those who have rented out their flats should keep a watch on the happenings in their premises.

15 arrested so far

With the arrest of two more persons, police have so far arrested 15 persons, including 13 persons from the medical fraternity, in connection with this case.

HC: *Status quo* order will not stop tomorrow's event at Isha Yoga Centre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday clarified that its interim order of January 11 to maintain *status quo* on the nature of the land at Isha Yoga Centre (IYC), Chickballapur, would not come in the way of holding an event on Sunday.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Ashok S. Kinagi gave this clarification after senior advocate Uday Holla, appearing for the IYC, made it clear that there would not be any activities of construction or deforestation as alleged by the petitioners.

The clarification was issued while hearing an application filed by the IYC, which had sought modification of the interim order for maintaining *status quo*, by pointing out that it would come in the way of the event scheduled for Sunday while alleging that the petitioners have suppressed several material facts from the court.

The Bench had passed an interim order for maintaining *status quo* while hearing a PIL petition filed by Kyathappa S. and three others from Chickballapur.

The petitioners have alleged that several parcels of land, situated on the foothills of the famous Nandi Hills, were purchased by Isha Foundation and Isha Business Pvt. Ltd., for setting up the IYC, and the State government too had transferred a few parcels of revenue land to the IYC in violation of various laws between 2019 and 2022. Installation of an idol of Adiyogi Shiva, measuring 112 feet in height at the IYC, is set to attract thousands of people who will use their vehicles to reach the centre. These activities would cause immense demographic pressure on the environmentally sensitive place, it has been contended in the petition.

VP not to attend event

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar will not be attending Isha Yoga Centre's Adiyogi statue unveiling scheduled for Sunday in Chickballapur. The organisation, however, said the programme would be held as announced earlier.

Basaveshwara, Kempe Gowda statues to be unveiled in 2 months

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accompanied by seers of Vokkaliga and Veerashaiva-Lingayat communities, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai performed the bhoomi puja for the installation of statues of Bengaluru founder Nadaprabhu Kempe Gowda and 12th Century social reformer Basaveshwara in front of the Vidhana Soudha here on Friday.

The statues would be unveiled in the presence of leaders of all communities within two months, Mr. Bommai promised the gathering that included the former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa and Minister for Revenue R. Ashok.

Mr. Ashok said the statues of Kempe Gowda and Basaveshwara would be installed between the statues of the former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and chief architect of the Indian Constitution B.R. Ambedkar.

The foundation stones were laid with the approval of Legislative Assembly Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri and Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti. A sum of ₹8 crore has been released for the installation of the statues.

While Veerashaiva-Lingayats revere Basaveshwara, Kempe Gowda is an icon of the Vokkaliga community. While the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community is seen as a vote bank of the BJP, the saffron party is aggressively trying to woo the Vokkaligas.

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT DIVISION KALABURGI
No:EE/RDP/DK/TS/Tender/ SCP/TSP /2022-23/921 Date: 12-01-2023

SHORT TIME E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

1) Name Of Work: Improvements to Road From Thirth Village To Thirth Tanda and Matki Village in Aland Taluk of Kalaburagi District **INDENT No: 5575,** 2) Head Of Account: SCP 2022-23, 3) Amount Put to Tender: **Rs. 12654614.34,** 4) Class of Contractor: Class-I and Above, 5) Submission of tender form & Completion last date of tender:**13/01/2023 to 21/01/2023 Evening Up to 4:30 PM**, 6) Cost of tender form & EMD Amount: Cost of Tender form & EMD Mentioned in e-Proc, 7) Last of Submission of tender: **21/01/2023 Evening Up to 4:30 PM**, 8) Opening date of Technical Bid: **23/01/2023 Morning After 11.00AM**, 9) Opening date of Financial Bid : **31/01/2023 Morning After 11.00AM**, 10) Address required for additional information: Office of Executive Engineer Rural development Panchayat Raj Engineering Project Division in front of Dr. B.R Ambedkar Hostel Rajapur road Kalaburgi. 11) E-mail Address: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in,** 12) Office E-mail Address: kn-gul-1@pmgsy.nic.in

DIP/Kalaburagi/1105/MC&A/2022-23
Sd/- Executive Engineer
RD PRE Project Division, Kalaburgi

Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation and Ground water Development Division, Chitradurga
NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB4/TENDER NOTIFICATION: 41/2022-23 DATE: 10-01-2023

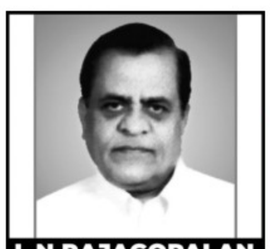
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (ONE & TWO COVER)KW-2 KW- 4

Item rate tender in One & two cover system as per KTPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible Class-I contractors registered in KPWD & Eligible Agency/Consultancy for the following work through e-procurement portal. **Name of work:-** (1) Construction of checkdam cum bridge Across Danihalli halla in Nyamathi Taluk. **Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-** 265.64 (2) PKG-3, 1. DRILLING OF BOREWELL TO LAND OF MANJAPPA BIN SIDDAPPA IN NERALAGUNDI VILLAGE 2. DRILLING OF BOREWELL TO LAND OF HANUMANTHAPPA A K, SANNA HANUMANTHAPPA IN SOGILU VILLAGE 3. DRILLING OF BOREWELL TO LAND OF LAKKAMMA KOM LAKSHMAPPA IN KYASINAKERE VILLAGE 4. DRILLING OF BOREWELL TO LAND OF HALADAPPA BIN HANUMNTHAPPA IN HALEJOGA VILLAGE (RESERVED FOR ST CATEGORY CONTRACTOR) **Amount put to tender in Lakhs:-** 28.00 Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 16-01-2023 Last Date & Time for enquiries about tender 27-01-2023 upto 5.30 P.M., Last Date for submission of Tenders 30-01-2023 upto 4.00 P.M. Opening of Technical bid Date: 31-01-2023 after 4.30 P.M (If possible). Opening of Finanical bid Date 02-02-2023 after 04.30 P.M (If possible). Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in e-portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from e-procurement help desk No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/873/2022-23 **Sd/-Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Divison, Chitradurga**

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



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B. L. RADHA

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Tel : 080-3344320

DEATH

P.D. SAMPATH (79), Retired Officer, General Administration, The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 13-01-2023. Address: 115/1, T P Koil Street, Triplicane, Chennai - 600005 Contact: 9841827556

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

PERCY BRITTO
"To say we will miss you doesn't even scratch the surface of what we feel. No amount of tears can express the pain we feel over losing you."
Passed away on the 12th January 2023.
The funeral was held on 13th January at 3.30 pm in Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
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Bangalore - Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority
No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 009
Tel : 080 22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU/57/2017-18 **Date: 13.01.2023**

PUBLICATION
(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Mico Karmikara Balagada Vasathi Sahakara Sangha Niyamitha Represented by Sri. S.Babu Rajendran and others have applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from "Agriculture" Zone to "Residential" purpose under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961, pertaining Sy.No: 25/1 Extent 02Acre-27Guntas, Sy.No: 25/2 Extent 03Acre-13Guntas and Sy.No: 25/3 Extent 04Acre-02Guntas (Including 0Acre-12Guntas Kallumaratti 'A' kaharab and Excluding 0A-03guntas Nala 'A' kaharab) totally measuring 10Acre-02Guntas of Vajarahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) If this land is developed and layout formed, sites will be available at reasonable rates to middle income group and economically weaker section.
2) At the time of carving and designing the Layout, there will be job opportunities to labours.
3) If this land is developed, then the surrounding area will also get developed.
4) If the planned development takes place, good road, civic amenity sites and parks etc, will be available for General Public.

Objection, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 16 days from the publication of this notice. Any objection received after 16 days will not be considered.

DIPR/CP/4076/AKAR/22-23
Sd/- Member Secretary
B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru

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NEW NELAMANGALA Sri Maruthi Complex, BH Road, Opp. to JCS, ITI College Ph : 9731306692 / 9686680755
BIDADI NEW Kenchanguppe Gate, Opp. HDFC Bank, Bangalore - Mysore Highway. Ph : 7702203254
NEW KONANAKUNTE Opp. to Soudhamini Chowltry, Nxt to Police Station Ph :9731306531
BEGUR # 80, Hongasandra, Opp. Royal Concorde School, Bangalore. Ph : 080- 41499467 / 41625433, Mob : 9731306604
R.T. NAGAR Opp. Police Station 080-23559977 / 9731307264
HOSKOTE Next to Govt. Womens College. Ph: 9731306767
HENNUR MAIN ROAD Diagonally Opp. to D'Mart. Ph : 48651500, 9731306571
UTTARAHALLI Uttarahalli Main Road Near HDFC Bank. 080-49587474 Ph : 9731306547
WHITEFIELD Ramagondanahalli, Next to Udupi Delicacy Hotel. Ph: 080-40984677 9513499851
YELAHANKA New Town, Sharavathi Road, Next to SBI Bank. Ph: 9731306702
HEBBAGODI Attibeli Hobli, Near Church, Opp. Biacon. Ph: 27849941 9731307257
HEGGANAHALLI Peenya 2nd Stage, Vishwaneedum PO, Main Road. Ph: 9591997257, 080-28366565 / 66
MAHADEVPURA Whitefield Main Road, Next to Brand Factory Close to Phoenix Marketcity. Ph : 080-48148975, 9148151731
KR PURAM Dia. Opp. Deepa Hospital, Near Shiva Temple. Ph: 9108023817 080-25611226
KENGERI 80Ft. Rd., Near Shirke Apts., Ph: 9731306634
VIJAYANAGAR MC Layout, Chord Rd., Near Metro Station. Ph: 9731306631
MARATHALLI Opp. Park Plaza. Ph:9731306703, 080-42200050
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MATHIKERE Bombay Dyeing Road Ph : 080-40974968 9731306641
HSR LAYOUT 1st Sector, Dia. Opp to ICICI Bank Ph : 9731306550
BANASHANKARI Opposite to Big Bazar Ph : 080-26691262 9731306572
JAYANAGAR 40th Cross, 9th Main Ph : 080-26541050/51 9731306606
CHANDRA LAYOUT Near Water Tank. 9731306558, 080-41503359
NAGARBHAVI 6th Block, 2nd Stage, Opp. BDA Complex. Ph: 9731306616
CHANNASANDRA Uttarahalli Main Road, Near RNSIT. Ph: 28613065 9731306766
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VIDYARANYA PURA Opp. BWSSB 080-41721897 / 861 Ph : 9731306614
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M BG-BGE

From Page One

Draft rules propose slashing legal age for buying liquor to 18

Among others, the government has proposed amendments to the Karnataka Excise (Sale of Indian and Foreign Liquors) Rules, 1968, Karnataka Excise (Brewery) (Amendment) Rules, 2023, Karnataka Excise (Excise Duties and Fees) Rules, 1968, and Karnataka Excise (General Conditions of Licences) Rules, 1967, under the Karnataka Excise Act, 1965.

Distance from highways

The sources said that the Karnataka Excise (General Conditions of Licences) Rules, 1967, was also being amended to add provisions that were part of the earlier SC orders of prohibiting liquor vending units on the highways in 2016. It prohibits liquor vends from within 500 metres from the edge of the highway in places that do not fall under corporation, municipality, town panchayat and gram panchayat where the population exceeds 5,000. The court's modified order of prohibiting liquor vends to 220 metres in urban areas and places with population of more than 5,000 had also been added. The State has also proposed amendment to the Karnataka Excise (Brewery) (Amendment) Rules, 2023, fixing excise duty on the production of beer manufactured in the microbrewery.

Inter-State barrage gets green nod

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Decks have been cleared for irrigating a part of the ayacut under inter-State Channakha-Korata (Rudha) barrage across the Penganga river with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change issuing environmental clearance to the project nearly four years after the process began in April 2019.

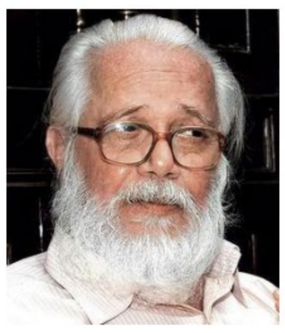
The barrage was taken up in 2015 with a storage capacity of 0.8 tmc ft and utilisation of water is 1.5 tmc ft. The project was taken up with a cost of ₹400 crore but the changes in the project scope and capacity has increased the cost to about ₹800 crore.

Main canal system of the project had already been completed but the land acquisition for distributaries was under progress, the irrigation officials said.

Spy case: Scheme at behest of foreign hand, CBI tells HC

Agency argues ISRO case is a conspiracy to derail development of cryogenic engine technology; it opposes anticipatory bail pleas of ex-Gujarat DGP R.B. Sreekumar, former police and IB officers

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI


Nambi Narayanan

The Central Bureau of Investigation submitted on Friday before the Kerala High Court that the 1994 espionage case involving former Indian Space Research Organisation scientist Nambi Narayanan and others was part of a conspiracy hatched, possibly with involvement of a foreign hand, to derail the development of the cryogenic engine technology by India.

The submission was made by S.V. Raju, Additional Solicitor General of India, appearing for the CBI while opposing the anticipatory bail pleas of former Gujarat Director General of Police R.B. Sreekumar and other former police and Intelligence Bureau officers in a case registered in connection with the conspiracy to frame up Mr. Narayanan in the espionage case.

He further submitted that foreign powers were involved in the conspiracy to fabricate a case against eminent scientists of the ISRO. The cryogenic engine technology was denied to India because of the atomic bomb blast that took place in Pokhran. Russia, therefore, did not transfer the technology to India because of the sanctions in the wake of the blast. If the technology was handed over to India, it would have been faster in cryogenic engine development. It was managed by the then scientists, including Nambi Narayanan.

Wrongful detention

He submitted that R.B. Sreekumar, then Deputy Director of the IB, Thiruvananthapuram, had played an active role in the wrongful detention of the victims. He submitted that the IB had no authority to interrogate Nambi Narayanan when he was in police custody. The interrogation was unauthorised, without the permission of the court. Mr. Narayanan and another former ISRO scientist Sasikumaran were pressurised and even tortured by the investigators to falsely implicate A.E. Muthunayagam, then director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre of the ISRO, who was dealing with cryogenic projects.

Although custody was given to the Kerala Police, the investigation was virtually hijacked by the IB and they conducted the interrogation without the presence of the Kerala Police between November 4 and December 3, 1994. Then they prepared a false interrogation report in the espionage case involving ISRO scientists, he added.

Kollam is first Constitution literate dist.

Shanta placing the Preamble at her home in Kulathupuzha, Kollam. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Navamy Sudhish
KOLLAM

Shanta hardly knew that liberty of expression or equality of status was her right. Once enlightened, the 63-year-old has no doubt where to place the Preamble of the Constitution of India.

In her modest two-room house in rural Kulathupuzha, the preamble shares a wall with gods.

A Bhagavatham reciter by profession, she is one among thousands of neo-literates who have been educated on the Indian Constitution as part of The Citizen, a Constitution literacy campaign jointly launched by the Kollam district panchayat, District Planning Committee and the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA).

As part of the ambitious campaign, around 16.3 lakh people in the district above the age of 10 have been educated on various aspects of the Constitution and the strenuous process involved 2,200 trainers called 'senators'.

During the seven-month campaign, the senators visited schools, offices, auto stands and tribal councils to spread awareness.

Kollam will be officially declared India's first Constitution literate district by Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning & hail likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh and east Assam. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, north Rajasthan and interior Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	25.9	9.5	Kozhikode	—	33.6	22.7
Ahmedabad	—	25.3	13.3	Kurnool	—	33.6	16.4
Aizawl	—	—	5.5	Lucknow	—	22.4	10.0
Allahabad	—	28.2	9.8	Madurai	—	31.8	18.3
Bengaluru	—	29.6	13.4	Mangaluru	—	30.8	19.5
Bhopal	—	—	13.0	Mumbai	—	27.5	19.4
Bhubaneswar	—	31.7	16.3	Mysuru	—	30.0	9.0
Chandigarh	5	21.5	10.4	New Delhi	—	21.5	9.8
Chennai	—	29.6	20.3	Patna	—	20.0	9.0
Coimbatore	—	29.3	18.0	Port Blair	—	30.2	23.2
Dehradun	0.2	22.8	9.0	Puducherry	—	31.6	18.2
Gangtok	—	13.9	6.4	Pune	—	31.2	12.8
Goa	—	32.4	17.8	Raipur	—	30.6	15.0
Guwahati	—	26.1	12.4	Ranchi	—	27.4	11.0
Hubballi	—	32.0	15.0	Shillong	—	16.1	3.1
Hyderabad	—	31.3	16.0	Shimla	4	9.8	1.4
Imphal	—	22.9	5.6	Srinagar	0.3	2.3	1.0
Jaipur	—	22.7	12.3	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.5	19.6
Kochi	—	29.4	22.0	Tiruchi	—	30.3	19.6
Kohima	—	19.8	5.4	Vijayawada	—	29.4	17.6
Kolkata	—	29.0	14.1	Visakhapatnam	—	28.6	21.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.31	..54	.58	...158	...227	
Bengaluru	...2	..40	.37	...186	...190	
Chennai	.26	..38	.40	...182	...116	
Delhi	.10	..60	101	...445	...353	
Hyderabad	.23	..17	.64	...144	...136	
Kolkata	.16	..15	.44	...258	...181	
Lucknow	.10	..54	106	...334	...309	
Mumbai	.73	142	.24	...240	...144	
Pune	..—	..—	..—	.....—	.....—	.....—
Visakhapatnam	...9	..65	.50	...186	...158	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Katihar, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 435 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 36

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
Mail ID :- sepwdsbp@rediffmail.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, NORTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE: SAMBALPUR
e - Procurement
BID IDENTIFICATION No CCENC(R AND B) /19/ 2022-23
No.131 Dtd.10.01.2023

1. The **Superintending Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **Percentage Rate** bids in double cover system **in ONLINE MODE** for the construction of **Road Works, Building Works and Bridge works** as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors.
2. No of works = **07 (Seven) (Roads-4 Nos. and Buildings-3 Nos.)**
3. Tender Cost : **Rs.10,000/-**
4. Class of contractor : **"B" Class, "A" Class and "Special" Class.**
5. Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids : From **16.01.2023 to 11.00 Hours of 31.01.2023.**
6. Date of opening of Technical Bid : **31.01.2023 at 16.00 Hours.**
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**.
8. Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**.

Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur.
B-1120 : OIPR-34035/11/0026/2223

Government of Karnataka
(Karnataka Rural water supply & Sanitation Department)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION, DIVISION KALABURGI-585105
No:EE/RDW&S/Dvn/Tech/2022-23/2847 Dated : 12-01-2023
E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two cover)

The Executive Engineer Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Kalaburagi on behalf of Honorable Governor, Karnataka here by invites separate Technical & Financial bid tender for drinking water works from eligible civil contractor detailed as below

The Tender Document with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site http://eporc.karnataka.gov.in and should be submitted through E-procurment system only 1) Name of work: **Chincholi taluka-03 (Indent No 54103, 54053 (Indent No 53429 call-2),** 2) Head of A/C :JJM, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Class- III & Above, 4) Tender Amount : **Min 1,17,95,255/-, Max 38904307/-,** 5) Date of Commencement of downloading of Bidding document: **12-01-2023,** 6) Cost of tender form and EMD: As per E-portal, 7) Pre bid meeting date: **17-01-2023 11.00am,** 8) Last Date to submit bids on e-portal: **20-01-2023 4.00pm**, 9) Opening of Techincal Bid: **21-01-2023 4.01pm**, 10) Opening of Financial Bid: **23-01-2023 11:00am**, 11) Address for any clarification reg.tender: Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division, PRE division 1st floor Kusanoor road Kalaburagi

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIP/Kalaburagi/1108/MC&A/2022-23 **RDW&S Division, Kalaburagi**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
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Phone no.: 08182-295502 / 9480806465. Email:- cpsmg.prisons@ka.gov.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕೇಕಾಶಿ/ದರಖಾಸ್ತು/184/22-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.01.2023
NOTIFICATION
SHIVAMOGGA ZONE
e-Tender is invited vide below mentioned Tender Nos. for prisons coming in the limits of Shivamogga Zone.

Tender Nos.	Tender Invitation date	Last Date for Tender	Tender Details	Approx. amount of Tender in Rs.	E.M.D. Amount in Rs.
DP/2022-23/IND1439	11.01.2023	09.02.2023	Part-1 Food Items	1,09,07,400-00	2,00,000-00
DP/2022-23/IND1440	11.01.2023	09.02.2023	Part-2 Food Items	40,49,100-00	80,982-00
DP/2022-23/IND1441	11.01.2023	09.02.2023	Part-3 Food Items	25,94,385-00	51,888-00
DP/2022-23/IND1442	11.01.2023	09.02.2023	Part-4 Food Items	98,73,900-00	1,97,478-00
DP/2022-23/IND1452	11.01.2023	09.02.2023	Part-5 Food Items	45,56,200-00	91,124-00
DP/2022-23/IND1458	11.01.2023	09.02.2023	Part-6 Food Items	40,41,992-00	80,840-00
DP/2022-23/IND1456	11.01.2023	09.02.2023	Part-7 Food Items	64,31,066-00	1,28,621-00
DP/2022-23/IND1447	11.01.2023	09.02.2023	Part-8 Food Items	30,05,635-00	60,133-00
DP/2022-23/IND1448	11.01.2023	09.02.2023	Part-9 Fruits and leafy vegetables	36,14,865-00	72,297-00
DP/2022-23/IND1449	11.01.2023	09.02.2023	Part-10 solid vegetables	64,88,250-00	1,29,765-00
DP/2022-23/IND1450	11.01.2023	09.02.2023	Part-11 Meat and Eggs	77,56,900-00	1,55,138-00
DP/2022-23/IND1457	11.01.2023	09.02.2023	Part-12 Other Material	43,05,735-00	86,115-00
DP/cutting&shaving/23-24	12.01.2023	10.02.2023	Shaving and Cutting for Prisoners	35,40,000-00	70,800-00

To participate in the said Tender and for information regarding the Tender visit www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and for further information on the said Tender contact the below mentioned address.
Chief Superintendent, Central Prison and Correctional Services Office, Sogane (V), Nidige Post, Shivamogga – 577222 Phone No.: 08182-298402 / 9480806465 / 9342629522

Sd/- Chief Superintendent, Central Prison, Shivamogga.
DIPR/smg/No.97/01/mca/22-23/1669

PUBLIC NOTICE

1. My client has negotiated to purchase the property scheduled below from the present owner M/s. Fibres & Fabrics International Private Limited, having its registered office at No. 21-E1, II Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bengaluru-560 058.
2. Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s asserting any right, title, claim, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien or any other interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property is/are hereby called upon to submit their objections in writing together with documentary proof of such claim, so as to reach me at the address given below within a period of 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice. If no such objections are received, it shall be deemed that M/s. Fibres & Fabrics International Private Limited has a clear and marketable title to the Schedule Property and that none else has/have any manner of right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property and my client would be at liberty to finalise the Sale transaction in respect to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being Industrial Plot No. 34A, II Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, situated in Survey Nos. 37 & 41 of Nellakadarenahalli village and Sy. Nos. 35 & 36 of Chokkasandra Village, (Old CMC Khata No. 119) Yeshwathpura Hobli, Bengaluru – 560 058, BBMP Ward No. 39 (Chokkasandra) admeasuring 7735 sq. mtrs., along with building with a built-up area of 58033.01 sq. ft., with ACC sheet, borewell, power, with all fittings and fixtures, together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the; **East by :** Plot No. 38A, **West by :** 60 feet wide Road, **North by:** Plot No. 33B, **South by :** Plot No. 34B

NIKHIL P., Advocate & Consultant
GARGI LEGAL
28, 'HAVANUR COMPLEX', Havanur Circle, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 079.

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MPPHSCL
Tilhan Sangh Bhawan, 01 Arera Hills, Bhopal
Phone : 0755-2578915, URL: https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in
Dated : 13.01.2023

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders for following items/Services shall be floated on website and Portal from 13.01.2023 to next 30 days :-

1. Online Tender Ref. No.T-389/MPPHSCL/RO Plant System (500 LPH)/QC/2023 uploaded on 13.01.2023 Portal and Website
2. Tender(s) for Various Drugs
3. Tender(s) for Various Consumables

All Prospective bidders are requested to visit **"www.mptenders.gov.in., https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in"** for further details.
M.P. Madhyam/108144/2023 **CGM (TECHNICAL)**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division, No.2152/20, Defence Colony, BWSSB Tank Road, Sahakaranagara, BBMP Office, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru - 560 092.
No: EE/BTP/BBMP/E-PMT/20/2022-23 Date: 12.01.2023

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS (IFT)
(Two Cover Tender) (Through **GOK e-Procurement Portal** only)

Tender for the following works on Item rate basis are invited as Standard Bid Documents KW-1/2/3 & 4 by the Executive Engineer, Byatrayanapura Division BBMP, from the registered Contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Name of the Works/Category Two Cover Tender	Approx. value of work (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
Improvement to Roads, Drains and Culverts at Dasarahalli Sri Anjaneya Temple Adjacent road in Ward No.06 (Thanisandra) (Others)	**55.00**	**110000**
Construction of Drains, Culverts and Cement Concrete Road at Dasarahalli Karagadamma Temple, Opposite Road in Ward No-06 (Thanisandra) (Others)	**65.00**	**130000**

Calendar of Events : (1) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **19.01.2023** at **3:00** pm in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division, No.2152/20, Defence Colony, BWSSB Tank Road, Sahakaranagara, BBMP Office, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru - 560 092. (2) Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is **23.01.2023** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Opening of Technical Bids is on **25.01.2023** at **11:00** am if Possible in the Office of the Executive Engineer. (4) Opening of Financial Bid is on **27.01.2023** at **11:00** am If Possible. (5) This tender notice can also be seen on the BBMP Website: **www.bbmp.gov.in**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Division

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-2/TENDER/2022-23/6535 DATE: 12/01/2023
Short Term E-Tender Notification (Call-2)

Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise short term e-Retenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 1 work under head of account 8443-Deposit Contribution (Vivek Yojane). Amount put to tender is Rs. 61.67 Lakhs.

Calendar of events : 1)Last date for queries & clarifications : 18-01-2023 up to 5.30 PM, 2)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 20-01-2023 up to 5.00 PM, 3)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 23-01-2023 at 4.30 PM,4)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids"

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/-Executive Engineer
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1546/MCA/2022-23 **PWD Division Chikodi.**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, BBMP Office Building, Robertson Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru.
No.:EE/PN/TEND/20/2022-23 Date:13.01.2023
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, invites tenders from eligible tenderers for the works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value of Work (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	Renovation and Repairings of Namma Clinic in P & T Colony, Venkateshpuram, Opp Varasiddi Vinayaka Temple,Bengaluru in Ward No. 75 Kushalanagar (Old Ward No. 31) (2nd Call).	3,38,741/-	8469/-
2.	Renovation and Repairings of NammaClinic in L.R. Sande, BBMP Ward OfficeBuilding, K.B. Sandra, Bengaluru in Ward No. 74 Kavalbyrasandra (Old Ward No. 32)(2nd Call).	4,84,798/-	12,120/-
3.	Renovation and Repairings of NammaClinic in No. 42, D.J. Halli. Munimarappa Block, D.J. Halli, Bengaluru in Ward no76 Muneshwara nagar (Old Ward No. 48)(2nd Call).	3,29,325/-	8,818/-
4.	Renovation and Repairings of NammaClinic in Old BSA Road, Dispensary atPeriyar Circle, Sagayapuram, Bengaluru in Ward No 79, Sagayapuram (Old Ward No 60) (2nd Call).	5,98,251/-	14,956/-
5.	Refurbishment of Namma Clinic in Private Building in Ward No 77, D.J. Halli (2nd (2nd Call).	2,00,000/-	2,500/-
6.	Refurbishment of Namma Clinic in Private Building in ward no 78, S.K. Garden (2nd Call).	2,00,000/-	2,500/-
7.	Refurbishment of Namma Clinic in Private Building in Ward No 80, Pulikeshinagar (2nd Call).	2,00,000/-	2,500/-

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-procurement portal from **17.01.2023 onwards. 2)** Last date for submission of tenders: **27.01.2023 upto 4:00 p.m. 3)** Opening of Tenders: **30.01.2023 at 11.00 a.m.** if possible. Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or e-procurement helpdesk : 080-22485867/22485927 or contact the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division.

PROPERTYPLUS
HOMES AND REAL ESTATE NEWS | THE HINDU
thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens

What real estate expects from the government

The limit of principal deduction on housing loans under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act can be raised, says **Anshuman Magazine**

BUDGET 2023

The limit of principal deduction on housing loans under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act (IT Act) 1961 stands at ₹1.5 lakh per annum. It is recommended that this be increased to at least ₹4 lakh per annum in the next Union Budget. This tax deduction can also be entirely moved out of section 80C since it gets clubbed with other instruments such as LIC, PPF, etc.

The interest deduction limit under Section 24 of the IT Act on housing loan stands at ₹2 lakh per annum, respectively, to incentivise homebuyers. We recommend that the limit be increased to at least ₹4 lakh per annum.

Currently, notional rent on a second completed, non-self-occupied / let-out property is taxable. Homebuyers can save up to I₹ lakh in taxation by offsetting their home loan interest against this notional rent. It is recommended that this tax be removed, or the ₹2 lakh limit be raised to drive capital toward the residential sector.

Post-COVID-19, last-mile funding to stressed housing projects has become imperative to boost residential activity

Long-term capital gains from the sale of house property are presently taxed at 20% through a special provision like Section 112 for equity shares. In addition, the period of holding of house property is currently 24 months to qualify as a Long-term Capital Asset (Section 54 of IT Act 1961). It is recommended that the tax rate be reduced from 20% and the holding period for a property be reduced from 24 months to 12 months so that there is no capital gains tax liability for the same. In addition, the cap of ₹2 crore on capital gains for reinvesting in two properties should also be removed.

While the SWAMIH fund recently got a capital infusion of ₹5,000 crore we recommend increase in its overall size to ₹50,000 crore. Post-COVID-19, last-mile funding to stressed housing projects has become imperative to boost residential activity and consumer sentiments.

The External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) framework, issued by the RBI under FED Master Direction No.5/2018-19, prohibits companies availing ECB from using the proceeds for construction or development of regular housing projects and there is ambiguity regarding their usage for acquisition of land for affordable housing projects. Therefore, to further enable growth in the real estate sector, it is recommended that these relaxations be provided under the ECB framework.

The author is Chairman & CEO - India, South East Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE and Chairman, CII Northern Region

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Bound supremacy

Parliamentary sovereignty isn't undone by the basic structure doctrine

It is fairly well-known that parliamentary legislation is subject to two limitations under the Constitution of India. One is by judicial review, or the power of constitutional courts to review legislation for possible violation of any fundamental right. Another is that no amendment to the Constitution should have the effect of destroying any of its basic features. While the first limitation is set out in Article 13, under which laws inconsistent with or in derogation of fundamental rights are void, the second limitation is based on the 'basic structure' doctrine evolved by the Supreme Court. Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar's remarks questioning the basic structure doctrine propounded in the landmark *Kesavananda Bharati* case (1973) does not reflect the correct position of law. In his view, the basic structure doctrine has usurped parliamentary sovereignty and goes against the democratic imperative that the elected legislature should reign supreme. His particular concern seems justified: that the Supreme Court prevented the National Judicial Appointments Commission, a body to appoint judges to the superior courts in the country, from coming into existence by striking down the relevant amendment to the Constitution and a parliamentary law to give effect to it. But it is difficult not to see his attack on the basic structure doctrine as part of the current dispensation's tirade against the judiciary and its grievance that it does not have enough say in the appointment of judges.

The idea that the basic structure doctrine undermines parliamentary sovereignty is simply wrong. Parliament is sovereign in its domain, but it is still bound by the limitations imposed by the Constitution. Mr. Dhankhar seems to have a problem with any sort of limitation on Parliament's jurisdiction to amend the Constitution. Surely, he could not have forgotten that the basic structure doctrine had helped save the Constitution from being undermined through the misuse of parliamentary majority. The main purpose of the doctrine is to ensure that some fundamental features of the Constitution are not legislated out of existence. It has been invoked to strike down amendments only in a few cases, but many others have survived basic structure challenges. Parliamentary majority is transient, but essential features of the Constitution such as the rule of law, parliamentary form of government, separation of powers, the idea of equality, and free and fair elections ought to be perennially protected from legislative excess. It may be open to a new Constituent Assembly to come up with another constitution that changes these fundamental concepts, but a legislature formed under the current Constitution cannot be allowed to change its core identity.

The first of the four

The Australian Open is set for intense play despite the absence of a few stars

Popularly known as the 'Happy Slam', the Australian Open has been anything but in recent times. Unprecedented bushfires, COVID-19 lockdown restrictions and Novak Djokovic's unsavoury deportation over his unvaccinated status marred the competition in each of the previous three years. But come Monday, as the 2023 edition of the tournament gets underway, the season's first Major looks set to regain its free-spiritedness. So unshackled is the atmosphere that even COVID-positive players can compete, a far cry from the happenings of the last two years. It is expected that the on-court action would march in step, despite the absence of the now-retired duo of Roger Federer and Ash Barty, two-time Australian Open women's singles champion Naomi Osaka, and the reigning men's World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz. Djokovic's mere presence makes him the automatic favourite, for Melbourne is to him what Paris is to Rafael Nadal. The Serb has won the event nine times, an Open Era record, and was undefeated in his last 21 matches at the site. He has also warmed up well by securing the tune-up in Adelaide after saving a match-point in the final against Sebastian Korda. Nadal – the top seed, defending champion and a men's record 22-time Major winner – looks underprepared, but as the Spaniard proved in 2022, he is not one to be discounted.

Among women, all eyes will be on World No.1 and three-time Grand Slam champion Iga Swiatek. A disappointing loss to Jessica Pegula in the United Cup and a right shoulder injury may have affected her preparations, but the Pole is still the player to beat. Second seed Ons Jabeur, who has emerged as a solid all-court threat, will look for her maiden Slam title after finishing as runner-up at the Wimbledon and US Open last year. The championship will also be an opportunity for the next rung of players to stake claim as the stranglehold of the 'Big Three' (Federer, Nadal and Djokovic) will only loosen going forward and the women's game has already moved into the post-Barty, post-Serena Williams era. Daniil Medvedev, the 2021 US Open champion and a two-time finalist in Australia; Casper Ruud, runner-up at two of the four Majors in 2022; Stefanos Tsitsipas; and Felix Auger-Aliassime will all want to come good. So will the in-form American Pegula, also the third seed; Frenchwoman Caroline Garcia; Belarus's Aryna Sabalenka; and the continuously rising Coco Gauff.

More than just an address

Arvind P. Datar

is a practicing advocate at the Madras High Court

Rahul Unnikrishnan

is a practicing advocate at the Madras High Court

The first session of every new Parliament in the United Kingdom requires the election of the Speaker to be completed and members of both Houses to take oath. Neither House of Parliament can proceed with any public business in any further session unless it is opened either by the King himself or by Lords Commissioners acting on his behalf. The King's speech is thus the formal beginning of each new session of Parliament and states the government's policy and the intended programme of business for the forthcoming session. The King's speech is prepared by the incumbent government and a copy of it is given to him by the Lord Chancellor.

A special address

As India adopted the Westminster model of parliamentary democracy, the Constituent Assembly decided, on May 18, 1949, to adopt this practice. Article 87 of the Indian Constitution requires the President to make a special address to both Houses of Parliament assembled on the commencement of the first session of each year. The President has to inform Parliament of the causes of its summons. Similarly, Article 176 requires the Governor to make a special address at the first session of each year of every State Legislative Assembly and to both Houses wherever the State also has a Legislative Council. The language of these provisions were borrowed from the rules of the House of Commons.

Jawaharlal Nehru, speaking in the Lok Sabha on February 22, 1960, stated that the President's address is nothing but a statement of policy of the government. He observed: "If the President's address has anything wrong in it or objectionable in it, it is the government to blame not the President, and it is open to hon. Members to criticise or condemn government because there is some such statement in it which they disapprove of".

The Governor is an elder statesman who brings a sense of gravitas to this high office

BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Calcutta High Court, while interpreting this article in *Syed Abdul Mansur Habibullah v. The Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly* (1966), held that the special address is not an idle or ceremonial formality. It keeps the members informed about the executive policies and legislative programme of the State government. The High Court further observed that the non-delivery of the special address hampers legislative debates and budgetary criticisms.

Thus, both in the U.K. and in India, it is a time-honoured constitutional convention that the King or the President or the Governor must read out the exact text of the speech or special address which informs the nation or the State of the policies that an elected government intends to pursue. There has never been an incident of the monarch in the U.K. departing from the official text of his speech. The Governor of Tamil Nadu, R.N. Ravi, made constitutional history in the State by omitting certain paragraphs and departing from the official text of his special address at the opening of the Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu for 2023.

It is interesting that during the Constituent Assembly debates, Professor K.T. Shah proposed an amendment to Article 87 giving discretion to the President to also make an address on "other particular issues of policy he deems suitable for such address". This amendment was rejected as B.R. Ambedkar pointed out that the President, under Article 86, had the right to address either House or both Houses of Parliament together and Parliament had to assemble for this purpose. Similar power was given to the Governor under Article 175. Thus, when there is an independent power provided under Article 175, it is a serious impropriety for any Governor (or even the President) to omit several paragraphs from the speech prepared by the incumbent government.

The Supreme Court has held that constitutional conventions are as much a part of the Constitution as its written text. And it is well-settled that constitutional morality consists of not only adherence to the written text of the Constitution but also to constitutional conventions. These conventions fill the interstices of a written Constitution and enable effective coordination between the legislature, executive and the judiciary.

Article 361 of the Constitution gives the Governor complete immunity from any legal action because our founding fathers hoped that Governors would maintain the highest standards of rectitude and propriety. It is disturbing that serious breaches of constitutional conventions continue to be made by Governors in States ruled by Opposition parties. The swearing-in of a Chief Minister early morning, the continued friction now between the Governor and the ruling party in Kerala and formerly in West Bengal, the omission to invite the single largest party to form a government in Manipur and Goa, the deliberate delay in providing assent to bills passed by the elected legislature in Tamil Nadu are some disturbing examples that have not met any censure.

The role of the Governor

The special address of the Governor is an important constitutional duty, which is performed with the aid and advise of the Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister at the head. The constitutional role of the Governor is that of an elder statesman who brings a sense of gravitas to this high office, and by his oath, must preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law. The residents of Raj Bhavans are expected to be above party politics and should not hamper the functioning of a duly elected State government. It is a tribute to our Constitution that it continues to be the steel-frame of India's republican democracy and has survived for over 70 years. But there is always the danger that this frame can be corroded and destroyed by short-sighted constitutional amendments and by repeated breaches of constitutional conventions. And the even greater danger is that no one can predict when the tipping point will come.

Take a step to regulate deepfakes

Bibek Debroy

is Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

Aditya Sinha

is Additional Private Secretary (Policy and Research), Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

In William Golding's famous novel, *Lord of the Flies*, Jack emphasises the importance of following rules and establishing a system of governance among the boys. He says, "We're not savages. We're English, and the English are best at everything. So, we've got to do the right things." It is a story of a group of boys who are stranded on an uninhabited island and their failed attempt at self-governance. In the end, all the boys end up becoming nothing short of savages. The book illustrates the significance of rules and the negative outcomes that can result from their absence. If nothing else, it is a governance lesson for governments and regulators. It demonstrates how self-regulation or no regulation can be disastrous at times. This lesson is particularly relevant in the context of Artificial Intelligence (AI) regulations in India.

The lack of proper regulations creates avenues for individuals, firms and even non-state actors to misuse AI. The legal ambiguity, coupled with a lack of accountability and oversight, is a potent mix for a disaster. Policy vacuums on deepfakes are a perfect archetype of this situation. Deepfakes "leverage powerful techniques from machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) to manipulate or generate visual and audio content with a high potential to deceive". Many of us have likely encountered a highly convincing deepfake of Tom Cruise that seemed more like Tom Cruise than the real Tom Cruise.

Issues with deepfakes

While appreciating the technology, we should be aware of the serious issues with deepfakes. First, since they are compelling, deepfake videos can be used to spread misinformation and propaganda. They seriously compromise the public's ability to distinguish between fact and fiction. Second, there has been a history of using deepfakes to depict someone in a compromising and embarrassing situation. For instance, there is no dearth of deepfake pornographic material of celebrities. Such photos and videos do not only amount to an invasion of privacy of the people reportedly in those videos, but also to harassment.As technology advances, making such videos will become much easier. Third, deepfakes have been used for financial fraud. Recently, scammers used AI-powered software to trick the CEO of a U.K. energy company over the phone into believing he was speaking with the head of the German parent company. As a result, the CEO transferred a large sum of money – €2,20,000 – to what he thought was a supplier. The audio of the deepfake effectively mimicked the voice of the CEO's boss, including his German accent.

Currently, there are few provisions in Indian law that can be potentially invoked to deal with the malicious use of deepfakes

Creating tensions in the neighbourhood

There are three areas where deepfakes end up being a lethal tool in the hands of India's non-friendly neighbours and non-state actors to create tensions in the country.

Deepfakes can be used to influence elections. Recently, Taiwan's cabinet approved amendments to election laws to punish the sharing of deepfake videos or images. Taiwan is becoming increasingly concerned that China is spreading false information to influence public opinion and manipulate election outcomes, and this concern has led to these amendments. This could happen in India's upcoming general elections too. Ironically, China is one of the few countries which has introduced regulations prohibiting the use of deepfakes deemed harmful to national security or the economy. These rules apply to content creators who alter facial and voice data and came into effect on January 10, 2023.

Deepfakes can also be used to carry out espionage activities. Doctored videos can be used to blackmail government and defence officials into divulging state secrets. In 2019, the Associated Press identified a LinkedIn profile under the name Katie Jones as a likely front for AI-enabled espionage. This profile was connected to influential individuals in Washington, D.C.

In March 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky revealed that a video posted on social media in which he appeared to be instructing Ukrainian soldiers to surrender to Russian forces was actually a deepfake. Similarly, in India, deepfakes could be used to produce inflammatory material, such as videos purporting to show the armed forces or the police committing 'crimes' in areas with conflict. These deepfakes could be used to radicalise populations, recruit terrorists, or incite violence.

As the technology matures further, deepfakes could enable individuals to deny the authenticity of genuine content, particularly if it shows them engaging in inappropriate or criminal behaviour, by claiming that it is a deepfake. This could lead to the 'Liar's Dividend,' as described by professors Danielle Keats Citron and Robert Chesney. This refers to the idea that individuals can exploit the increasing awareness and prevalence of deepfake technology to their advantage by denying the authenticity of certain content.

Need for legislation

Currently, very few provisions under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Information Technology Act, 2000 can be potentially invoked to deal with the malicious use of deepfakes. Section 500 of the IPC provides punishment for defamation. Sections 67 and 67A of the Information Technology Act punish sexually explicit material in explicit form. The Representation of the People Act, 1951, includes provisions prohibiting the creation or distribution of false or misleading information about candidates or political parties during an election period. But these are not enough. The Election Commission of India has set rules that require registered political parties and candidates to get pre-approval for all political advertisements on electronic media, including TV and social media sites, to help ensure their accuracy and fairness. However, these rules do not address the potential dangers posed by deepfake content.

There is often a lag between new technologies and the enactment of laws to address the issues and challenges they create. In India, the legal framework related to AI is insufficient to adequately address the various issues that have arisen due to AI algorithms. The Union government should introduce separate legislation regulating the nefarious use of deepfakes and the broader subject of AI. Legislation should not hamper innovation in AI, but it should recognise that deepfake technology may be used in the commission of criminal acts and should provide provisions to address the use of deepfakes in these cases. The proposed Digital India Bill can also address this issue. We can't always rely on the policy of self-regulation. At least, that is what the *Lord of the Flies* has taught us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LG-government tussle

The Lieutenant Governor has executive control of only the police, public order and land, but he still interferes with subjects such as education ("L-G's refusal to allow teacher training in Finland an attack on Delhi's education model: Sisodia," Jan. 13). The judiciary should take cognisance of such cases on priority and give clear instructions to the LG to work independently.

Anukul Gupta
New Delhi

Dhankhar's remarks

It is difficult to endorse the Vice-President's views on Parliament's sovereignty vis-a-vis the judiciary ("Under Constitution, law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all," Jan. 13). The sovereignty of Parliament to amend the Constitution is not absolute as it is subject to review by the Supreme Court. Parliament has no power to make constitutional amendments that violate the basic structure of the Constitution. The Supreme Court is empowered to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and its decisions cannot be termed as judicial overreach. As Justice Charles Evans, former Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, said, "We are under a Constitution, but the Constitution is what the judges say it is."

S. Seshadri
Chennai

Nothing stops the government and the judiciary from sitting together and thrashing out their concerns if they really want to fix the shortcomings in the current system. These public comments betray a holier-than-thou attitude, which neither side can justly lay claim to. It also shows the elected government's ambition to reign supreme.

Preetha Salil
Mumbai

The increasing friction between the judiciary and the executive is not a healthy sign of a democracy. The Vice-President should refrain from adding fuel to the fire; his remarks are uncalled for.

Madhusree Guha
Kolkata

Corrections & Clarifications

>>In a report headlined "Loan fraud: Kochchars released from jail" (Jan.11, 2023) it was erroneously stated that "... after the Bombay High Court held that their arrest *was in accordance with law*". It should have been "*not in accordance with the law*".

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Sunaina Saklani (in black sweater) and her younger sister, Nikita, at their residence in Joshimath, which has developed cracks. V.V. KRISHNAN

Fear and foreboding in Joshimath

Residents of the Himalayan town have been waking up to widening cracks in homes and roads. As more people are shifted out of 'unsafe' structures, **Ishita Mishra** reports on their anxieties and emotions, and on the warning signals that have been ignored over the decades

The first thing that Neelam Bhujwan does every morning is to open a window of her two-room rented accommodation to check on a yellow single-storey house barely 300 metres away on the same hill, a little down the slope. Over the course of the day, she reckons that she visits the house more than 50 times, sometimes just to check if the doors are locked or if any animal has entered. A widow with two teenage sons, she says she can feel the house tilting a little more, every passing day.

"That was the house I came to when I got married 23 years ago," says Bhujwan, tears streaming down her face. "It was a single room then. My husband and I built it up, spent all our savings on it. Now I see it sinking every day." The 47-year-old Anganwadi worker has rented a place nearby, so she can keep a watch: "Who knows when it will turn into ruins, like many homes in Joshimath."

The anxiety envelopes all of Joshimath, a pilgrimage town in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district with a population of around 22,000 people and with approximate 3,800 large and small residential structures. Many of these bear cracks on the walls and floors, and have been declared unsafe. Cracks in roads and pathways have further heightened apprehensions about the future. Cracks in some houses had been appearing previously over the years, and residents would repair their homes at regular intervals. The situation worsened since 2021, and over the past months the cracks have grown wider and deeper, raising concerns about safety.

Stories of loss

Scenes of bewilderment play out across the town. Sarjeet Singh in the Kothilagarh locality was not able to spend even a day in his house. "We had built this house in 2018-19 but couldn't shift due to family issues," he explains. "We were yet to have the house-warming when one day (in February 2021), my wife noticed a crack on the wall of the bedroom. The next day it became wider. Within a week, the wall was fractured from bottom to the top. By August 2022, almost every room was damaged." Singh had taken a loan to build the three-room house; now most of the big and small houses in the neighbourhood lie damaged and abandoned.

Jagdish Chaudhary, who runs a grocery store 100 m away, says at least 13 families in his neighbourhood have left their homes in the last month. "This town, which used to be full of happy faces, now looks gloomy. No one talks to each other anymore. They all have their own sorrows," he says.

Sunaina Saklani, a 22-year-old graduate whose house in Sunil village within the town limits is badly 'damaged', struggles to maintain her composure while talking to her ailing mother, who is under treatment for a tumour in a hospital in Dehradun. "We are fine and our house is fine too," she tells her mother, misleadingly. She and her sister, Nikita, spend most of their time in their dilapidated, and damaged home. The family are unhappy with the make-shift living arrangements at the rehabilitation centre organised by the district administration. "They have placed men and women together," says Nikita. "We stay here in the damaged home the entire day and just go to the rehab centre to sleep."

> On the night of January 2, a huge piece of plaster fell on my head. I ran out and saw that the terrace was cracking. I could hear the noise of plaster getting ruptured
>
> **NIKITA**
> Resident of Sunil village

She recounts: "On the night of January 2, a huge piece of plaster fell on my head. I ran out and saw that the terrace was cracking. I could hear the noise of plaster getting ruptured. In the morning, there was space between walls at the corners." They spent the night of January 3 out in the winter chill – as have countless other residents in the area, afraid of staying inside damaged structures, but afraid of abandoning their homes.

The Uttarakhand government has so far rehabilitated 185 families in temporary rehabilitation centres made by converting schools, community centres and hotels. The government claims to have space to house over 3,000 people in these centres. Apart from accommodation, the government is also providing cooked food and rations.

Devendra Singh Rawat, 67, who resided with seven other family members in a five-room house in the Singhdar area, had to move to a single room in a Nagar Palika (organised for him the district administration). He has been calling his relatives in Dehradun to check if they can help find jobs for his sons. "I am retired from the Sashastra Seema Bal. My son was working in a hotel here. Another was a salesperson in a shop. All of us are jobless and the only asset we had, our house, is damaged. The government has announced relief of ₹1.5 lakh, but how long will that sustain us?," he worries.

Satishwari Shah, 65, has had crying fits since the moment her house, a small building with four rooms, was marked as dangerous. Seema, her daughter-in-law, is trying to pack as much as she can in bags that the family has, unable to decide what to take and what to leave behind.

Chandra Vallabh Pandey, whose house is also marked with a 'cross' by the administration, is not ready to leave his home. "How can I leave my deity? I have been worshipping her since birth," he says. The statue of the deity installed in his house is centuries old, he adds, and was brought by his great-grandfather.

Neelam Bhujwan, an Anganwadi worker whose house has been damaged. V.V. KRISHNAN

A forest guard who was posted in Pipalkothi, 35 km from Joshimath, has arrived at the office of Additional District Magistrate. "My family lives here and my house is also damaged," he tells the official. "What if something happens to my wife and children? Sir, I haven't slept since a week. I am losing my mental balance." The officials immediately ordered his transfer and suggested that he meet a doctor.

Every second person in Joshimath looks worried, dark circles under the eyes, unruly hair, unwashed. Almost every household sends one person to participate in the protests taking place at the tehsil office since December 24. In the morning, men participate, and in the afternoon, women mark attendance.

"Be safe but keep fighting," Atul Sati, convener of the Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti (JBSS), tells the people during the protest as many of them are not ready to vacate their homes.

"A person puts all his earnings and savings in building their home. I don't know how to console them but we all know that it took years for the government to wake up to important issues. We can't let them sleep when all they have done is the bare minimum," says Sati.

> We alerted the government when the Raini disaster took place. It fell on deaf ears
>
> **ATUL SATI**
> Convener, Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti (JBSS)

Akshay and Vikas, who run a tempo service, claim to have ferried belongings of eight-nine families to different locations in the last 24 hours. "People just cry. They try to put in as much as they can but much is left behind," says Akshay.

Across Joshimath town, in every shop, people discuss the Mishra Committee report, how NTPC Limited has destroyed the town, and how the government ignored all warnings.

"My house witnessed its first crack in 2021, soon after the Raini disaster," says Bhuvan Chandra, who lives in Gandhi Nagar. In February 2021, an avalanche at the Nanda Devi glacier nearby caused extensive damage at the site of the Rishiganga and Tapovan-Vishnugad hydroelectric power project, causing the death of at least 200 persons, many of whom have been working on the site. "I informed the administration over 10 times in the last two years," he recalls. "No one paid heed. When the damage happened in big hotels and homes belonging to rich people, the administration woke up from its slumber."

Sandeep Singh, who returned to Joshimath after post-graduate studies at the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies of Dehradun to start a sweets shop, points to the irony that his native town may be sinking on account of hydro-power projects, but itself never has sufficient electricity supply.

The dust that won't settle

Joshimath, situated 6,000 m above sea level in Chamoli district, also bears the weight of around 400 commercial establishments in the form of hotels, shops and offices of tour and trekking groups. There are huge establishments of the Army, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and NTPC Limited and Jaiprakash Power Ventures Ltd (JPVL) hydropower projects.

"Construction mushroomed here in the last two decades," says Sati of the JBSS, arguing that the current situation could have been averted had the government paid attention to the warnings. "We alerted the government when the Raini disaster took place. It fell on deaf ears."

The magnitude of the damage in Joshimath can be gauged from the fact that 760 houses in the town have developed deep cracks. Over 147 among them are totally unfit to be inhabited (data till January 13). The district administration is still reviewing the status of more than half the houses in Joshimath. Residents say not a single house in this hill town is without cracks.

Roads in Joshimath show the disaster unfolding, from anthropogenic as well as natural causes. After every few hundred metres, the motorable road is cracked. At some patches, the cracks are a foot wide. There are fractures on trekking paths too.

Though the government halted the work of the NTPC and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) projects on January 4, big JCBs can be spotted farther away working in the hills of Uttarakhand. At some places, a patch of road destroyed after a minor or a major landslide is being cleared; at several other locations, the widening of roads is under way.

In practically every township, the sound of drilling machines and construction dust breaks the quiet of the Himalayan environs. "Hills just don't look like hills. The trees are covered with dust. There is noise all the time," says Vidushi Nautiyal, a resident of Joshimath.

The crossroads of place and time

Joshimath is prominent on the Himalayan pilgrimage map as the gateway to the Badrinath shrine, the most visited temple of the Char Dham Yatra. It is the winter seat of Lord Badri, when the main temple is snowbound. The 'Math' (monastery) of Adi Shankaracharya, which too has witnessed cracks due to subsidence, is located here. The town is also the doorway to the important Sikh gurdwara, Hemkund Sahib. Joshimath is on the way for visitors to the Valley of Flowers national park. By one estimate, over 50 lakh people visited Joshimath for the Char Dham Yatra and leisure trips in 2022.

In 2016, the Central government started the ₹9,474 crore Char Dham road-widening project, with the aim of improving the connectivity for the Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri and Gangotri temples in Uttarakhand. To assess and check the environmental damage, the Supreme Court formed a High-Powered Committee headed by environmentalist Ravi Chopra. Chopra subsequently resigned in January 2022, citing what he saw as "the desecration" of the Himalayas.

Warnings about 'sustainable' development in Uttarakhand have been issued periodically for more than five decades – all in vain.

The first such warning came from an 18-member committee formed by the Uttar Pradesh government in 1976, six years after the devastating Alaknanda flood of 1970. (Uttarakhand was part of U.P. till 2000.) It was led by the then Garhwal Commissioner, M.C. Mishra. His report maintained that Joshimath was a landslide-affected area, and hence it was not recommended that a township be built here. It recommended that no boulders be removed either by digging or blasting, plantation be done on hill slopes and no trees cut, and that there be no mining within a radius of 5 km. It noted that poor drainage facilities led to landslides, and the government must plan for a proper drainage and sewage system.

"Nothing happened in the last 46 years," says geologist Navin Juyal, a member of the High-Powered Committee appointed by the Supreme Court on the Char Dham road-widening project.

And as recently as August 2022, the Uttarakhand government had asked its disaster management department to assess the situation of Joshimath. In August 2022, a team led by Piyush Rautela, Executive Director of the State Disaster Management Authority, conducted a survey of Joshimath. Thereafter, he submitted a report to the government in November. "We believe that due to erosion in the Alaknanda river bank below Joshimath, water is getting absorbed in the ground because of lack of sewage and drainage systems. This was causing subsidence," he told *The Hindu*.

After the report, the government ordered a tender to plan for a sewage system in Joshimath. But it was too late, says Sati.

From Page One

'The buck stops with govt. to end hate speech'

The court said that the anchors and the editorial heads of the channels decided the content, adding that it was also dictated by the "money" behind the channels.

Justice Joseph, who said he was speaking for himself, said that he found it denigrating how TV channels resorted to "name-calling". He referred to the man accused of urinating on a fellow passenger in an Air India flight in this regard. "The type of words used against him... He is an undertrial. Please do not denigrate anyone. Dignity is also part of Article 21 (right to life)," said Justice Joseph.

Justice Nagarathna said that the exercise of free speech by one could not violate the right to dignity and free speech of others.

"They [anchors/panellists] have to be very clear that they cannot go on TV and speak their minds whichever way they want... That is not the exercise of freedom," Justice Joseph observed.

The court referred to TV debates dissolving into slanging matches where some invitees were muted. Justice Joseph said that such actions affected the viewers' right to be informed.

'Media must self-regulate'

Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj said that the government intervened against the media only in "exceptional circumstances". The onus was on the media to self-regulate and exercise prior restraint. The government was considering legislation and even "comprehensive" amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure to address the issues highlighted by the court, he said. Meanwhile, individuals wronged could avail of either the mechanisms under the Indian Penal Code.

Rise in capital spending pushes up investments

Private sector investment project numbers dropped from 3,585 projects in April to December 2021 to 2,787 in 2022-23 so far, but the value of investments was ₹13.6 lakh crore, almost 38% higher than 2021-22.

"The fall in the number of private projects shows that a number of private companies, despite experiencing high-capacity utilisation and having enough resources, are adopting a wait-and-watch policy to unravel their capex plans. Rising input costs, hardening interest rates and the slowdown expected in developed economies are the headwinds making mid-size Indian companies go slow on their investment plans," Projects Today CEO and director Shashikant Hegde told *The Hindu*.

Joshimath sank 5.4 cm in 12 days, says ISRO

Another senior scientist working with the NRSC-ISRO told *The Hindu* that the report was removed because it was being misinterpreted.

The report, whose copy is with *The Hindu*, stated that between December 27, 2022, and January 8, 2023, a rapid subsidence event was triggered in the town. The region subsided around 5.4 cm within a span of 12 days and the real extent of subsidence had also increased.

The observations in the report maintained that slow subsidence up to 9 cm within the Joshimath town was recorded over a period of seven months between April and November 2022. Between December 27, 2022 and January 8, 2023 a rapid subsidence event was triggered.

A subsidence zone resembling a generic landslide shape was identified (tapered top and fanning out at base). Crown of the subsidence is located near Joshimath-Auli road at a height of 2,180 m.

The report was compiled by Sentinel-1 SAR imagery (Descending pass) which was processed using the 'DInSAR' technique, the ISRO maintained. *(With inputs from Geetanath V.)*

Plan, NOC not needed to seek power connection

Among the major amendments, "built-up area" has been changed to mean the sum of the building areas of each of the floors of the building, including the cellar, measured between the external walls as per actuals, with reference to the "plan", instead of "actual construction or as per the sanctioned plan".

Documents required from the owner/ promoter/ occupier of multi storied buildings / complexes to register the application for power supply now excludes "NOC issued by the licensee to obtain plan sanction," as well as the need for a sanctioned plan of the building.

For layouts having mixed loads such as residential, commercial, and industrial, instead of having to get the "sanctioning authority to verify the bonafides of the developer and obtain his permanent residential address on the application, which will be verified by the sanctioning authority," the licensee now only has to obtain the identity and address proof of the applicant.

The move has been objected to by certain sections, including those who have been fighting against illegal commercialisation of residential areas.

Joshimath residents to get six-month waiver on power, water bills, says Dhami govt.

Recovery of loans put on hold for a year; two members of each family affected by land subsidence to get wages under MGNREGA; prefabricated houses to be built for rehabilitation of people

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Seeking justice: Joshimath residents staging a protest at the Tehsil office demanding adequate relief measures. V.V. KRISHNAN

The Uttarakhand government on Friday waived power and water bills for six months for the residents of Joshimath, the spiritual town affected by land subsidence. The waiver will be effective from November 2022.

The government also froze loan recovery from the residents for a year and said two adult members of families whose livelihood had been affected due to the land subsidence would get wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

The decisions were taken at a Cabinet meeting held in State capital Dehradun. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami told mediapersons that the affected families would receive an interim relief of ₹1.5 lakh each. The government had released a sum of ₹45 crore for the purpose, he said.

Earlier, the State had announced an assistance of ₹4,000 per month as rent to each family of the hill town for a maximum of six months. On Friday, it was decided that the amount would be increased to ₹5,000. The Cabinet also decided that families staying in hotels or relief camps would receive the actual expenditure incurred or ₹950 per day, whichever was less. In addition, they would also receive ₹450 per head per day for food-related expenses.

"If a person is not willing to have food in the relief camp, then such person will be provided ₹450 per day for food. According to SDRF (State Disaster Relief Fund) standards, ₹15,000 will be given for replacement of animals. In addition, ₹80 per day will be provided for fodder of large animals and ₹45 for small animals," the government said in a statement.

Immediate action

With regard to loans taken from banks, instructions have been given "that loan recovery of cooperative banks should be postponed with immediate effect and also from the level of other commercial banks", the government said. A request would be made to the Union government to postpone loan recovery, it added. The Cabinet also decided that prefabricated structures would be constructed in areas such as Koti Farm, Pipalkoti, Gochar, Gaukh Selang and Dhak to rehabilitate people.

A decision on permanent rehabilitation of residents will be taken after conducting a damage-assessment study. The State will spend funds on various short-term and medium-term work from its own resources till it receives a relief package from the Union government.

SC directs police to file affidavit in Delhi hate speech case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Though the FIR was filed on May 4, 2022, there has been no questioning of suspects so far

The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Delhi Police to file an affidavit detailing steps taken in the investigation of hate speech incidents in the national capital, where, according to activist and Mahatma Gandhi's great-grandson Tushar Gandhi, "calls of violence and Nazi style salutes were made".

Appearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, advocate Shadan Farasat, for Mr. Gandhi, said the incidents took place on December 19, 2021. The first information report (FIR) was registered only on May 4, 2022. There has been no arrests or questioning of the suspects or chargesheets filed till date.

"What are you doing in terms of the investigation? The FIR was only registered five months later. Eight months have passed since the registration of the FIR. There seems to be no palpable progress... Who is the investigating officer?" Chief Justice Chandrachud asked Additional Solicitor-General K.M. Nataraj, appearing for the Delhi Police.

Mr. Farasat said there was a clear violation of the Supreme Court's direction in the *Tehseen Poonawala* case in which the court had said the police should take preventive steps to stop such incidents from happening.

The hearing was based on a contempt petition filed by Mr. Gandhi against the then Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana. Mr. Farasat said the petitioner was focusing rather more on the action the police is taking on the incidents and call for violence.

'Investigation on'

Mr. Nataraj said there might have been some delay in "some cases", but the investigation was certainly on. The petitioner cannot dictate how the investigation ought to be conducted, he said. "But tell us now what has happened between May 4 till now?" the CJI asked.

Mr. Nataraj said he would have to take instructions on that and would file an affidavit about the progress of the investigation.

In April last year, the police had told the Supreme Court that there were no instances of hate speech at the Delhi *dharam sansad* event nor was there any "open call for genocide of Muslims in order to achieve ethnic cleansing".

Plurality is under threat, but India will reject hatred: Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's plurality is under threat and "divisive forces are attempting to turn our diversity against us but India will reject hatred", Congress leader Rahul Gandhi says in a letter that will be distributed as part of a follow-up campaign to the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh released the letter on Friday.

Mr. Gandhi says, "I write to you after completing the historic 3,500 km-long Bharat Jodo Yatra where millions of Indians walked with us from Kanniyakumari to Kashmir. It was the most enriching journey of my life, and I am overwhelmed by the love and affection that every single Indian has showered on us".

He says a palpable economic crisis is brewing – joblessness among the youth, unbearable price rise, severe farm distress, and a complete corporate capture of the country's wealth. "Today, even our plurality is under threat. Divisive forces are attempting to turn our diversity against us – different religions, communities, regions are being pitted against each other. These forces, which are only a handful in number, know that only when people feel insecure and scared can they sow the seeds of hatred for the 'other'. But after this Yatra, I am convinced that this vicious agenda has its limits, and it cannot go on any longer."

Promising to fight for the people every single day – from the streets to Parliament – he says, "I am determined to create economic prosperity for everyone – right price for farmers' produce, jobs for our youth, fair distribution of wealth, an enabling environment for MSMEs and entrepreneurs, cheaper diesel, a stronger rupee, and a cylinder for ₹500."

Comrades bid farewell to the man who coined 'Mandal vs Kamandal'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Great loss: Rabri Devi offering condolences to Rekha Yadav, wife of Sharad Yadav, at Chhatarpur on Friday. PTI

Political leaders from across party lines gathered to pay their last respects at the residence of socialist stalwart Sharad Yadav, who passed away on Thursday night.

As they bid a final farewell to the man who famously coined the phrase "Mandal versus Kamandal" to criticise the BJP for trying to neutralise backward class politics using Hindutva, many of his co-travellers looked back at the battles they fought together.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president J.P. Nadda, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi, and Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury were among the leaders who paid tributes to Sharad Yadav at his residence.

Mr. Yechury said the two had spoken over telephone just a couple of days ago. "He wanted to talk about the roadmap ahead for the Opposition. I was in Tripura and told him that I will meet him when I am back. Tragically, the day I returned, he is gone," he said. The two had known each other for more than five decades, since they were both leaders in student politics. Yadav headed the Yuva Janata Dal and Mr. Yechury was president of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students Union.

Mr. Gandhi reached Yadav's residence at 8.30 a.m., travelling from Punjab, where the Bharat Jodo Yatra is camping. Speaking to reporters later, Mr. Gandhi said he had learnt a lot from Yadav, especially on how to maintain decorum and dignity in political life. "My grandmother Indira Gandhi and Sharad*ji* were political rivals but always maintained a relationship of mutual respect," he said.

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Shivanand Tiwari, who could not visit Delhi, recalled how Yadav's association with Bihar was a matter of chance. "In 1991, the Madhepura Lok Sabha seat fell vacant and many of us, Nitish*ji*, Lalu*ji* ensured that Sharad*ji* was fielded from here. This was his first electoral battle in Bihar and the beginning of his lifelong association with Bihar," Mr. Tiwari said. Yadav went on to win from Madhepura four times.

Former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi also visited Yadav's residence to pay her last respects. Yadav merged his Loktrantrik Janata Dal, a party he floated in 2018, with the RJD in March 2022. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Haryana Chief Minister M.L. Khattar, Samajwadi Party leader Ram Gopal Yadav and Manoj Jha of the RJD were also among the leaders who paid tributes to Yadav. The last rites will take place at his ancestral village in Madhya Pradesh's Narmadapuram district on Saturday.

Dhankhar's comments on judiciary part of game plan to create conflict: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar's comments on the judiciary are part of a "game plan to orchestrate a confrontation", the Congress alleged on Friday.

It quoted Mr. Dhankhar's predecessor M. Venkaiah Naidu's remarks in 2020 that "the Constitution is supreme".

On Wednesday, while addressing the 83rd All India Presiding Officers Conference (AIPOC) in Jaipur, Mr. Dhankhar had criticised the striking down of the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act in 2015 and questioned the landmark 1973 *Kesavananda Bharati* case verdict, saying it set a wrong precedent.

"Mr. Chidambaram has pointedly countered the Vice-President's assault on the judiciary by saying the Constitution and not Parliament is supreme. Just a year ago, Mr. Dhankar's predecessor Venkaiah Naidu *garu* had said exactly what Mr. Chidambaram has," Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh tweeted to refer to former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram as well as Mr. Naidu.

'Captured judiciary'

He also posted an official release of Mr. Naidu's remarks at the inaugural session of the 80th AIPOC, held at Kevadia, Gujarat, in November 2020. In his speech, the former Vice-President had said only the Constitution is supreme and the legislature, the executive and the judiciary are bound to work within the respective domains as defined in the Constitution.

"This is clearly an orchestration of a confrontation between the judiciary and the government. Different voices are being raised. It is one thing to have a committed judiciary but if the objective is to have a captured judiciary then I think democracy is under threat," Mr. Ramesh said. He added that the *Kesavananda Bharati* verdict is one judgment that has found wide political acceptance.

Budget Session to start on January 31

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Budget Session of Parliament will begin on January 31 and continue till April 6, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi said on Friday.

The session will have 27 sittings spread over 66 days with a nearly month-long recess, he said. "Amid *Amrit Kaal* looking forward to discussions on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, Union Budget & other items," Mr. Joshi said in a tweet. The recess will be from February 14 to March 12 to examine the Budget papers.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sithataman on December 16 indicated that her forthcoming Budget would continue to push growth on the back of public spending as she said it would "follow the spirit" of earlier Budgets.

Scheduled to be presented on February 1, it will be the fifth Budget of the Modi 2.0 government and the last full Budget before the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Amit Shah hints at upscaling of security apparatus in J&K

Modi government stands firmly with the families of victims of Rajouri attack, says Minister

Peerzada Ashiq
Vijaita Singh
JAMMU

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who could not meet the families of terror victims in Rajouri's Dangri due to inclement weather, on Friday indicated at further upscaling security apparatus in the Union Territory. He, however, conspicuously desisted from naming Pakistan or identifying any militant outfit behind the recent attack in Jammu on a Hindu-majority hamlet, which left seven civilians dead.

"Following the policy of zero tolerance against terrorism under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, all security agencies are fighting a decisive battle against terrorism. The Modi government stands firmly with the families of the victims and is determined to help them," Mr. Shah, who addressed a press conference in Jammu, said.

Mr. Shah's Jammu and Kashmir visit came in the wake of the killing of seven civilians in twin attacks by militants on January 1-2 in Dangri area. "I spoke to all the families over the phone and tried to join their grief. The courage of all those victim families is an example for the whole country. It is a big thing to maintain the morale of fighting hard even after such a big incident," he said.

Security reviews

With Jammu and Kashmir witnessing a spate of attacks on minorities in the past two years, the Home Minister chaired a high-level security review meeting in Jammu with top security officials.

"All the security agencies are fully prepared and their morale is high with confidence to prevent such incidents," Mr. Shah said, while directing the National Investigation Agency and the Jammu police to jointly investigate the recent terrorist incidents in Rajouri.

Modi flags off world's longest river cruise from Varanasi to Dibrugarh

This cruise will put Indian tourism destinations on the global map, says Prime Minister, launching the three-deck vessel *MV Ganga Vilas* that is set to cover a distance of 3,200 km in 51 days

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday flagged off the world's longest river cruise – *MV Ganga Vilas* – and inaugurated the tent city at Varanasi. Mr. Modi, who joined the function from New Delhi through video conferencing, also laid the foundation stones for many development schemes and inaugurated projects worth more than ₹1,000 crore for Varanasi.

The longest river cruise from Kashi to Dibrugarh is starting from today, putting Indian tourism destinations on the global tourism map, the Prime Minister said. "Our country is entering into a robust phase of tourism. With a growing global profile, curiosity about India is also increasing," he said.

"With the tent city, tourists and devotees coming to Kashi now have an incredible means of accommodation," he added.

Set for sail: People board the river cruise *MV Ganga Vilas* after it was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. PTI

An all-rounder

MV Ganga Vilas is the first indigenously made cruise vessel in India. It has three decks, 18 suites on board with a capacity of 36 tourists, with all the modern amenities. It will cover a distance of 3,200 km in roughly 51 days reaching Assam's Dibrugarh through Bangladesh.

Built with a unique design and a futuristic vision, the *MV Ganga Vilas* will meander across various prominent destinations that lie along the Ganga and Hooghly. The cruise will pass through 25 different river streams.

The cruise journey is going to bring many spiritual, multinational and natural experiences as it will cover destinations like Kashi, Patna Sahib, Bodh Gaya, Vikramshila, Dhaka and the Sundarbans, pointed out Mr. Modi.

"Those seeking spirituality will cover destinations like Kashi, Bodh Gaya, Vikramshila, Patna Sahib and those wanting to witness the natural diversity will cover destinations like Sundarbans and the forests of Assam," the Prime Minister said.

In his address, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath dubbed the launch of the cruise as the start of a "new era of tourism" in Kashi. "Uttar Pradesh expresses gratitude to the Prime Minister for connecting Kashi with the eastern port," he said.

Jaishankar to visit Sri Lanka, may discuss debt crisis

Suhasini Haidar
Meera Srinivasan
NEW DELHI/COLOMBO

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will travel to Sri Lanka next week, sources told *The Hindu*. This will be his first trip to the country since President Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn-in last July after protests forced out the previous Rajapaksa regime.

Officials said that while a full review of bilateral ties is on the agenda, the visit comes amid efforts by the Sri Lankan government to get "written financial assurances" from their closest and biggest creditors – India and China – on restructuring their debt. This is needed to make progress on their bailout plan being discussed with the International Monetary Fund.

Chinese visit

Mr. Jaishankar's two-day visit to Colombo, scheduled for January 19-20, will follow a visit by a ministerial delegation of the Communist Party of China (CPC). The visits, coming back-to-back, are crucial for Colombo to avail itself of the $2.9 billion IMF package under its Extended Fund Facility. The Sri Lankan government has said that it hopes to borrow more money once the IMF programme kicks in, to set its economy on a path to recovery following last year's crushing meltdown. China, Japan, and India are

S. Jaishankar

Sri Lanka's three largest bilateral creditors, and Colombo is counting on their cooperation for economic revival.

On Friday, the Chinese Embassy in Colombo announced that a "high-level delegation of the CPC led by the International Department Vice Minister Chen Zhou will visit Sri Lanka 14-18 January, the first official visit of the CPC to the island in the new year of 2023 and after its 20th National Congress."

India has been involved closely in assisting Sri Lanka's economic recovery programme after a near-debt default last year, and has been coordinating with other partners like the US and Japan, both on a bilateral level and at the Quad's meetings, in order to find ways to help Sri Lanka overcome its financial crisis. However, strategic ties hit a block over the Sri Lankan government's decision to allow a Chinese satellite tracking vessel into Hambantota port last August, a development that both India and the US formally protested against.

In another indicator of the growing faultlines in Sri Lanka, U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka Julie Chung told the BBC news service on Thursday that China should not play "spoiler", and that Beijing must provide the necessary financing assurances without delay "for the sake of the Sri Lankan people".

Ferry connectivity

Mr. Jaishankar will also discuss trade and transit ties with India's neighbour. New Delhi and Colombo are in talks to enhance ferry connectivity, following the restart of Chennai-Jaffna flights last month. The Wickremesinghe government has committed to resuming negotiations on the stalled Economic and Technological Cooperation Agreement as well.

Mr. Jaishankar's visit comes even as Mr. Wickremesinghe is holding talks with Sri Lanka's Tamil political leadership on a durable political solution. The Tamil parties have expressed concerns over the absence of any tangible action on their demands pertaining to land grabs in the north and east, release of political prisoners and answers to families of disappeared persons. These are issues that the External Affairs Minister had raised last year, in talks with the then-Rajapaksa administration.

INBRIEF

CBI gets nod to prosecute Lalu in 'land-for-job' scam

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has received prosecution sanction against the then Railway Minister Lalu Prasad in connection with the alleged "land-for-job" scam. The agency has informed the trial court about the development to enable further legal proceedings in the case. In May 2022, the CBI had conducted searches in Delhi and Bihar after registering the case against Mr. Prasad, wife Rabri Devi, two daughters, Misa Bharti and Hema Yadav, and 12 others, for alleged appointment of substitutes to the Railways' Group-D posts in lieu of land parcels. The case was registered on the basis of a preliminary enquiry in 2021, to examine the claim that many ineligible persons were appointed as substitutes and later regularised.

CBI searches 39 more places in FCI case, arrests manager

The Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted searches at 39 more locations in connection with the allegation of massive corruption in the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in connivance with private rice millers and grain suppliers. In the fresh round of searches in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chennai and Karnataka, the agency seized ₹1.03 crore in cash and arrested an FCI manager, Satish Verma, posted in Chandigarh. Fixed-deposit receipts for over ₹3 crore were also found. On Wednesday, as part of the operation 'Kanak', it searched 60 premises and arrested a deputy general manager named Rajiv Kumar Mishra. It has registered a case against 34 serving FCI officials, three retired members and 17 private persons, including rice mill owners and grain suppliers.

NIA files chargesheet against six in Kathua drone-drop case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against six accused persons in connection with the seizure of a drone carrying grenades and magnetic bombs, at Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir last May. The accused have been identified as Faisal Muneer, Habib, Mian Sohail, Muni Mohammed (deceased), Rashid and Sajjad Gul. The drone had been intercepted near Dhalli in Kathua's Rajbagh. The NIA investigation revealed that on the directions of the alleged Pakistani handler Sajjad Gul, the others would collect, receive and transport the weapons to the terrorists operating in the Kashmir Valley, using the drones for carrying out terror activities.

Braving a Viral Storm tells the tale of India's COVID vaccine journey

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

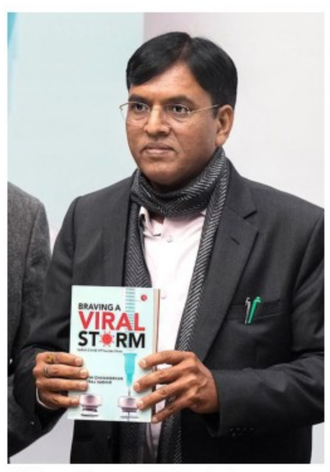
India's development and production of its own vaccines against COVID-19 was an important part of dealing with the pandemic, pushed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's view that the "entrepreneurial state" of government would bear the front-loaded risks of the effort, cushioning the private sector, according to a new book.

The authors of *Braving a Viral Storm: India's Covid-19 Vaccine Story*, Ashish Chandorkar and Suraj Sudhir, have put together the story of how India got two Indian-made vaccines – one fully developed in India as well – to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

As early as February and March 2020, the Central government set up a task force to develop an Indian vaccine. On May 5 that year, the Prime Minister gave clear directives that there had to be a huge intervention, and governmental funding of efforts by private manufacturers in this effort.

On May 9, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) announced a partnership with Bharat Biotech (manufacturers of Covaxin).

India was the first country to announce a clear Public Private Partnership to develop vaccines, followed by the United States on May 15 with its Operation Warp Speed and then the United Kingdom's government announcing its support for the University of Oxford's research efforts on May 17.



Minister Mansukh Mandaviya releases the book in New Delhi.

The book puts together not just the story of how India's vaccine response was calibrated but also documents the controversies that raged at the time – such as the demands for procurement by State governments, or on allowing foreign-made vaccines to be sold in the country – and why the Union government took the decisions that it did.

Much of the material is publicly available but the book puts it together for a quick read on India's vaccine race.

International institutions need fundamental reform, says PM

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking at the conclusion of the virtual Voice of the Global South Summit on Friday, said institutions of global governance require "fundamental" changes.

"We developing countries are also concerned about the increasing fragmentation of the international landscape. These geopolitical tensions distract us from focusing on our development priorities. They cause sharp swings in international prices of food, fuel, fertilizers and other commodities. To address this geopolitical fragmentation, we urgently need a fundamental reform of the major international organisations, including the United Nations Security Council and the Bretton Woods institutions," said PM Modi at the end of the two-day event.

Mr. Modi announced a series of initiatives to enrich India's engagement of the Global South highlighting New Delhi's medical diplomacy during the COVID-19 pandemic, saying, "I would now like to announce a new 'Aarogya Maitri' project. Under this project, India will provide essential medical supplies to any developing country affected by natural disasters or humanitarian crisis."

CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY
Established by an Act of Parliament
56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058
Website: www.sanskrit.nic.in

Advertisement No. 03/2023 Date: 14.01.2023

INVITING ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR ONLINE INTERVIEW

Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for Online Interview for engagement as **Coordinator & Associate Coordinator (Media Cell) and Senior System Analyst & Technical Assistant (ICT Cell)** at Headquarters Office of Central Sanskrit University, Delhi. For detailed notification regarding number of positions, submission of application, schedule, eligibility conditions, etc., please visit University website **www.sanskrit.nic.in**

REGISTRAR

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : Re-T-62,63,64/2022-23/SE/PHC/MVPA, **JJM - (1)** WSS to Santhanpara, Rajakumary (Part) and Senapathy (Part) Panchayaths in Idukki District - Supplying and Laying Distribution and providing FHTC in Santhanpara GP-, **(2)** Kumily Panchayath: Providing FHTC (6610 nos) to rural households, Construction of Steel tanks, Pipeline works, Supply and erection of pumpset, Valve chamber, Road restoration, etc. **(3)** Peruvanthanam Panchayath 2021-24 Providing FHTC (3179 nos) to rural households, Construction of Steel tanks, Pipeline works, Valve chamber, Road restoration, etc. **EMD :** Rs. 5,00,000/- Each, **Tender Fee :** Rs. 16,540/-, Each, **Last Date for Submitting Tender :** 03-02-2023, 04:00 pm, **Phone :** 0485 2835637. Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer,
PH Circle, Muvattupuzha

KWA-JB-GL-6-1421-2022-23

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA, PIN:751012, Tel No.(0674) 2562020,
e-Mail: theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com
GSTIN - 21AAACO2571K2ZM

"e"-Procurement Notice No. 36 /OCCL/2022-23 (on-line)

On-line percentage rate tenders are invited for the following works :

Sl No.	Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Approx. Value of work (Rs. In Crores)	Bid Security (through on-line transfer (in Rs.)	Period of Completion	Availability of Tender (on-line)	Submission of tender (on-line)
01	Improvement & black topping of Canal Service road of Telengiri Main Canal and its off-taking distributaries under Telengiri Medium Irrigation Project.	OCCL-TSP/01/2022-23	Rs.30.81 Crores	Rs.31,00,000/-	12 (twelve) Calendar months	From 18.01.2023, 10.00 AM to 01.02.2023, 5.30 PM.	From 18.01.2023, 10.00 AM to 01.02.2023, 5.30 PM.
02	Improvement & Black topping of Canal Service road of right & left distributaries of Bhaskel Dam Project under Nabarangpur Irrigation Division, Nabarangpur.	OCCL-TSP/02/2022-23	Rs.13.87 Crores	Rs.14,00,000/-	9 (nine) Calendar months	From 18.01.2023, 10.00 AM to 01.02.2023, 5.30 PM.	From 18.01.2023, 10.00 AM to 01.02.2023, 5.30 PM.

Procurement Officer : Managing Director, OCCL
Date of Opening of the Technical Bid : 02.02.2023, 12.00 Noon
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in

CAD-4503

MANAGING DIRECTOR
OIPR-34120/11/0033/2223

राष्ट्रीय सिद्ध संस्थान / NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SIDDHA
आयुष मंत्रालय / Ministry of AYUSH
भारत सरकार / Government of India
ताम्बरम सनटोरियम / Tambaram Sanatorium चेन्नई / Chennai-600 047
फ़ोन / Tele: 044-22411611 फैक्स / Fax: 044-22381314
ईमेल: nischennaisiddha@yahoo.co.in वेब: www.nischennai.org

मिसिलसंख्या F.No:NIS/1-34/UG Course/2019 तारीख /Date: 13.01.2023

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from NEET 2022-23 qualified Candidates for admission to the **Bachelor of Siddha Medicine and Surgery (BSMS) Programme** of this Institute for the **Academic Year 2022-23**. The detailed Prospectus and Application Form can be downloaded from our website **www.nischennai.org** starting from **17.01.2023**. The last date to submit the filled up Application Form will be **27.01.2023** upto 5.00 p.m

DIRECTOR

PURABI DAIRY West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Ltd. (WAMUL)
World Bank Financed Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)

Ref No. MD/PC/APART/E-Tender/2022-23/09 Dated : 14th January, 2023

e-Procurement Tender Notice

The West Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Limited (WAMUL) is an implementing agency of World Bank Financed (APART) Project and now intends to purchase the following items from the eligible bidders as mentioned below:

Sl. No	Category	Date of publishing tender	Last date of submission of Quotations
1	Sexed Semen	18-01-2023	17-02-2023
2	Walk-in-Cooler	24-01-2023	14-02-2023
3	Liquid Nitrogen	25-01-2023	16-02-2023

The details of the E-tender will be published and available at **www.assamtenders.gov.in** as mentioned above. If any corrigendum will be issued, it will be published in **www.assamtenders.gov.in** on or before last date and timing for submission of bid. No separate notification for publication of corrigendum or extension of last date of submission of bid will be made through Newspaper advertisement.

Sd/- Managing Director

RAJASTHAN CO-OPERATIVE DAIRY FEDERATION LIMITED
SARAS SANKUL, JLN MARG, JAIPUR - 302017,TEL. – 2702501-508 FAX – 0141 – 2702537,
GRAM – DAIRYFED, E-MAIL – RCDFHO_JP1@SANCHARNET.IN
FO&AH E-MAIL – foahrcdf@gmail.com/fo-rcdf@rajasthan.gov.in

No. : RCDF/FO&AH/F.10(SSG)/2022-23/52469-74 Dated : 13/01/2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-tender invited from the reputed Seed Producing Agencies or companies having valid license in Seed Business, for supply of HYBRID MULTICUT SORGHUM SUDAN GRASS (SSG) SEED - (RED COLOUR) of approximately 5800.50 Quintal TFL (5 Kg. cloth packing) at various milk unions / farms in Rajasthan.**(UBN No. CDF2223GLRCO1296)**.Estimated tender value Rs.277 lakhs.

The tender form alongwith terms & conditions may be obtained from the website **https://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** & it may be viewed at **www.sarasmilkfed.rajasthan.gov.in**, **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**. online tender submission due date 24 Jan., 2023 and online technical bid opening at 11.30 AM on dated 25 Jan., 2023.

Raj.Samwad/C/22/13242 General Manager (FO&AH)

जीवन में भरे रस–हमारा प्यारा

INBRIEF

10 killed as bus rams truck at Nashik in Maharashtra

At least 10 people, including six women and two children, were killed and more than 30 seriously injured when a luxury bus from Thane district in Maharashtra bound for Shirdi in Ahmednagar district collided with a truck along the Nashik-Shirdi highway around 6 a.m. on Friday. According to police, ongoing roadworks coupled with poor visibility may have caused the driver of the bus, which was carrying more than 45 passengers, to ram into the truck coming from the opposite direction. Expressing grief for the deceased, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced an ex gratia compensation of ₹5 lakh for the next of their kin.

Cricketer who went missing found dead in Cuttack

A 26-year-old cricketer from Puri district of Odisha, who went missing on Wednesday, was found dead in Gurudijhatia police station limits of Cuttack (Rural) district on Friday morning. The deceased, identified as Rajashree Swain, went missing after she was allegedly denied a berth in the 16-member Odisha women's cricket team which was announced on Wednesday. "She was very upset and was crying on Wednesday evening after the team was announced. She soon went missing," said Swain's roommate. Cuttack DCP Pinak Mishra said a case of unnatural death has been registered at the Gurudijhatia police station.

'PM SVANidhi has aided over 9,000 street food vendors'

More than nine thousand street food vendors have been onboard on food delivery platforms like Swiggy and Zomato as part of the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, making a wider market accessible to them, Union Minister for Urban Affairs Hardip Singh Puri has said. The total sales by these food vendors on these platforms till January 9, 2023, has been ₹21.93 crore. Mr. Puri said that in the past two years, more than 40.07 lakh loans worth ₹4,606.36 crore has been disbursed to 45.32 lakh beneficiaries under the scheme.

KLO leaders 'surrender' in Nagaland ahead of peace talks

Top leaders of the extremist Kamatapur Liberation Organisation (KLO) have "surrendered" before the Assam Rifles after entering Mon district of Nagaland from their hideout in Myanmar. Security officials on Friday said the KLO team, led by its chairman Jibon Singha, is in the custody of the paramilitary force that mans the India-Myanmar border. The KLO chief is expected to be flown to Delhi for peace talks months after the Centre initiated a peace process. Formed in December 1995, the KLO has been pursuing the dream of a 'Kamatapur nation' carved out of parts of Assam and West Bengal for the Koch-Rajbongshi community, one of six demanding Scheduled Tribe status.

Marriage of minor girls: SC to check legality of personal law

A Bench led by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud issues formal notice on a plea filed by the NCPCR; the panel questions personal laws overriding statutes like POCSO, Prohibition of Child Marriage Acts

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday decided to examine whether girls as young as 15 years can enter into wedlock on the basis of custom or personal law when such marriages constitute an offence in statutory law.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud issued formal notice on the petition filed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) against a recent order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court that a girl, on attaining puberty or the age of 15 years and above, could be married on the basis of Muslim personal law, irrespective of the provisions of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO).

The Supreme Court said the High Court order would not act as a judicial precedent for other courts.

> Can personal law and custom be pleaded in the face of statutes such as POCSO and the Indian Penal Code, which make such marriages an offence?
>
> **TUSHAR MEHTA**
> Solicitor General

Appearing for NCPCR, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta submitted that "girls as young as 14 and 15 are being married. Can personal law and custom be pleaded in the face of statutes such as POCSO and the Indian Penal Code, which make such marriages an offence?"

The Kerala High Court had recently observed that provisions of POCSO would apply if the bride or groom was a minor, irrespective of the validity or otherwise of the marriage.

The NCPCR, through advocate Swarupama Chaturvedi, has contended that laws such as POCSO and the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act are secular in nature and should apply to all sections of the society.

Raising age of marriage

The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 has sought to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, to increase the minimum age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years.

In December 2022, the top court had asked the government to respond to a separate petition filed by the National Commission for Women (NCW) to make the minimum age of marriage for Muslim women on par with persons belonging to other faiths. NCW, like the NCPCR, had raised the question whether personal law could override statutory provisions of POCSO, etc.

The NCW had argued that the practice of marrying below the age of 18 would expose Muslim women to abuse and harassment, and further said that it was arbitrary and discriminatory.

Explained | Is raising marriage age enough to help girls?
bit.ly/raisingmarriageage

6 judicial officers, 3 advocates elevated as Rajasthan HC judges

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

At least one name from the list of fresh appointments was recommended by the Collegium in 2020

Amid an ongoing tussle between the Union government and the Supreme Court Collegium over delay in appointments to the higher judiciary, the Law Ministry on Friday notified the appointment of nine judges to the Rajasthan High Court.

At least one name from the list of fresh appointments was recommended by the Collegium as far back as 2020.

While six judicial officers have been elevated as High Court judges, three advocates also figured on the list of new appointments. Law Minister Kiren Rijiju took to Twitter to announce the fresh appointments.

24 vacancies

As on January 2, the Rajasthan High Court had 24 vacancies as per the Law Ministry website.

Advocates Ganesh Ram Magna, Anil Kumar Upman and Nupur Bhati and judicial officers Rajendra Prakash Soni, Ashok Kumar Jain, Yogendra Kumar Purohit, Bhuwan Goyal, Praveer Bhatnagar and Ashutosh Kumar were appointed as judges.

Sources claimed that the recommendation to appoint Mr. Magna was at least four years old, while the other names were recommended by the Collegium recently.

Meanwhile, the Law Ministry on Friday also notified giving a fresh one-year term to Bombay High Court additional judge Abhay Ahuja with effect from March 4.

Additional judges are usually appointed for a two-year period before being elevated as permanent judges.

Panel on SC status for Dalit converts awaits staff, budget

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The commission has two years to finish the task at hand and submit a report to the government

More than three months after the Union government formed a commission to study the possibility of according Scheduled Caste status to Dalit Christians and Muslims, the three-member panel does not have exclusive office space, secretarial staff, and a full-fledged budget.

The Commission of Inquiry headed by former Chief Justice of India K.G. Balakrishnan, formed in October, has two years to finish the task at hand and submit a report to the government.

The panel has so far met about half-a-dozen times at a room allotted for them at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in the capital, where meetings are scheduled to take place till they are assigned an office.

As a result, the commission is currently only at the stage of "literature collection", following which it will start reviewing all materials available on the subject and then proceed to field visits, according to sources.

"The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment [MSJE] has informed us that they will be providing us funds from their contingency budget till March 31, following which a full-fledged budget will be allotted to us in the next Budget," a panel member told *The Hindu*, adding that they had been provided vehicles for travelling only recently.

One source said that the Union Ministry has supplied the commission with whatever material they have on the subject and also made a presentation to it on what the government's position on the issue is.

The commission has now submitted a list of their requirements to MSJE, with the top priority of a "proper office space". It has also requested official email IDs for the commission and the members.

'Soul of Steel' challenge to be launched in India

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

On the lines of the 'Ironman triathlon' long-distance triathlon challenge in Europe which tests an individual's grit and endurance, a 'Soul of Steel' challenge is set to be launched in India.

The challenge, which will test one's high-altitude endurance, will be undertaken in Uttarakhand.

The effort is spearheaded by a venture, CLAW Global, run by veterans and is being supported by the Indian Army.

The expedition will be formally launched on January 14. Initially, there would be 12 Indian participants plus six international teams, and the age group to apply would be between 18 and 30 years. The challenge would be spread across three months.

"The idea behind Soul of Steel is pooling of skill-sets and creating a challenge that will unlock the human ability to survive, stabilise and thrive in high altitude area," said Major Vivek Jacob (Retd.) of CLAW Global.

Air India incident: Mishra's lawyers shift blame onto victim

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

In a strange twist, the lawyers of Shankar Mishra, who is accused of urinating on an elderly woman onboard an Air India flight, told a Delhi court on Friday that their client did not urinate on the complainant. They further alleged that the woman "herself urinated".

Shankar Mishra

Making the submissions in the court of Additional Sessions Judge Harjyot Singh Bhalla, the counsel of the accused, senior advocate Ramesh Gupta, maintained that his client is innocent and is being subjected to "harsh media trial". "It seems the complainant herself urinated as she is suffering from some disease... which several Bharatanatyam dancers seem to suffer from. She too is a Bharatanatyam dancer," the counsel said.

He further argued that the woman first filed a complaint demanding refund. That was done by the airline.

He also stressed how police went all the way to Bengaluru to arrest his client and declared him an absconder. Mr. Mishra lost his job due to mere allegations, advocate Gupta told the court.

The judge, who was hearing the matter against a police petition seeking revision of the order passed by a magisterial court denying police the custodial interrogation of Mr. Mishra, disposed of the application saying the submissions made in the court on Friday were not made before the previous judge. Judge Bhalla further added that the police can approach the Metropolitan Magisterial court with a fresh application.

Mr. Mishra had told the police during interrogation that he did not remember anything about the incident as he had "blacked out" during the flight.

'All Sikkimese women must be allowed to get I-T relief'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday, in a judgment, held that exclusion of Sikkimese women who marry non-Sikkimese men after April 1, 2008 from exemptions under the Income Tax Act is unconstitutional and amounts to gender discrimination.

"The discrimination is based on gender, which is wholly violative of Articles 14, 15 and 21 of the Constitution. It is to be noted that there is no disqualification for a Sikkim man, who marries a non-Sikkimese after April 1, 2008," Justice M.R. Shah observed in his opinion.

Justice B.V. Nagarathna, in a separate opinion, agreed that "there cannot be a discrimination vis-à-vis Sikkimese women marrying a non-Sikkimese individual, whether an Indian citizen or a foreigner, that too, on or after April 1, 2008".

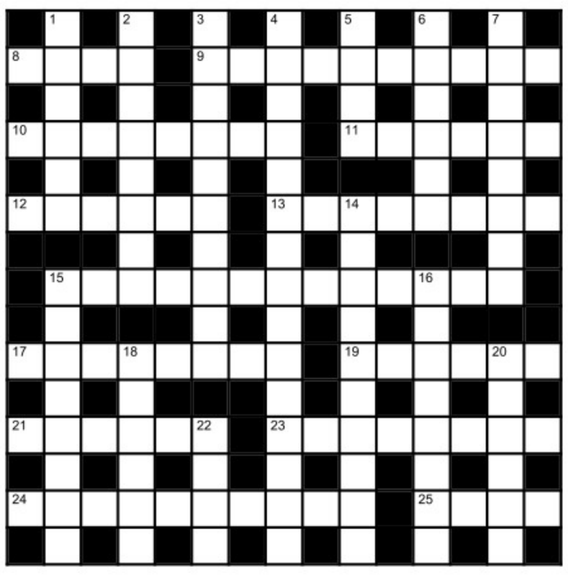
The top court made the ruling in a case related to an appeal filed by the Association of Old Settlers of Sikkim.

TH CROSSWORD + 13763

(set by Crescent)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Stand to display body and wallop German (4)
9 Timber in door now warped with age (6-4)
10 Robin's head struck in round with Little John cracking bone (8)
11 Ask for time to enter current contest (6)
12 Growing dwarf in denial about being inhibited by silly bias (6)
13 A large number run to evil, breaking into houses (8)
15 Dollar reserves otherwise soar, Bank of England keen to get off the mark (5,4,4)
17 Spring seen in desert expedition (8)
19 Mark in a grave denoting respect (6)
21 Extremely happy in say, Wodehouse's language class (6)
23 Offenders of religious belief systems crossing the essence of propriety (8)
24 Out of position when one's starting to take simpler way out (4,6)
25 An eagle in some other nest (4)

Down

1 Can love fiercely if like this (5-1)
2 Crack shot craves cover to snipe (8)
3 Pain in the neck, introduced to minute taste of teasers, becoming unfair (3,7)
4 Turning cheek not hit, saint wanting seconds shows face up to blow (4,2,2,3,4)
5 Fruit slice from evil guru in retreat (4)
6 Partners cycling left to turn (6)
7 Deft manoeuvring with extremely fine twists or drop of knees (8)
14 Fitting in before playing for time (10)
15 Fashionable resort in Britain? Absolutely correct (8)
16 High quality rump steak topped with dressing (8)
18 It is found in combining term for many a constitution (6)
20 Stout barrel in bar (6)
22 Shock on earth coming to moon (4)

SUDOKU

7		2		8			9	
			4				8	
		6	5	1			7	3
		3		2		8		
9	5			6	8	1		
	8				7			
	7			5		3		6

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS5679 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

G	L	I	S	S	A	D	E		I	M	P	A	R	T
R		N		A		I			A		N		U	
O	P	T	I	M	I	S	T		S	T	R	A	I	T
U		U		B		P		S		R		L		E
S	T	R	E	A	M	L	E	T		I	D	Y	L	L
E		N				A		U		A		S		A
			A	C	H	Y		D	A	R	L	I	N	G
T		E		I					C		S		E	
E	N	D	O	R	S	E		B	A	H	T			
C		E		C		D		O				A		G
H	I	N	D	U		A	U	N	T	S	A	L	L	Y
I		T		I		M		D		T		A		R
E	X	A	C	T	S		M	A	L	A	Y	S	I	A
S		T		R				G		M		K		T
T	I	E	D	Y	E		K	E	E	P	S	A	K	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	4	7	8	6	5	9	1	2
6	2	1	3	7	9	5	4	8
5	9	8	2	4	1	7	3	6
8	6	9	4	2	3	1	5	7
1	7	2	5	9	6	3	8	4
4	5	3	1	8	7	6	2	9
2	3	6	7	5	4	8	9	1
7	1	4	9	3	8	2	6	5
9	8	5	6	1	2	4	7	3

FAITH

Importance of Bhogi, Lohri

Accumulation of knowledge and good deeds are the only permanent aspects in this world. However, most of us hoard a lot of earthly goods, fill ourselves with envy and petty competitiveness. Bhogi, celebrated every year on the last day of Margazhi is an annual reminder to spring clean our inner self, said Dhamal Ramakrishnan in a discourse. It is the day to get rid of negative energy and turn one's mind towards salvation and make a fresh start. Our puranas and ancient texts such as Silappathigaram also highlight Bhogi, the important time when sun, the source of all energy, starts moving towards the northern hemisphere.

At the same time, throughout north India, significantly establishing the string of cultural links between the far-stretched regions, devotees celebrate Lohri, a very significant religious and cultural festival, said Professor Kumool Abbih. Offering thanksgiving to the Sun God, Lohri heralds the beginning of the end of the dark, bleak, dreary winters and the beginning of warm days. Anthropologically it is related to the agricultural calendar. It heralds the harvesting of the Rabi crops. A bonfire is lit and oblations are offered to the sacred fire. *'Aadr aaye diladar jaye'* (may honour come and poverty vanish) in the form of sesame, peanuts, popcorn, puffed rice and jaggery.

Cosmologically the fire has a close cultural connection with the institutions of family and kinship, the rituals, customs, ceremonies of birth, marriage and death which invoke Agni. The festival of Lohri signifies abundance, bounty and the community spirit. The fire is considered to be animate, alive and pure.

JERUSALEM

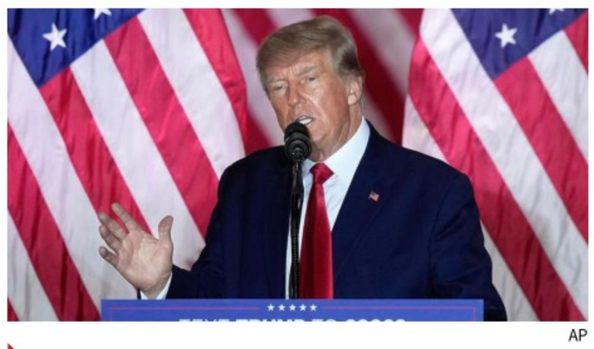
Israel's outgoing Army chief rebukes far-right government

AP

Israel's Army chief on Friday warned against plans by Benjamin Netanyahu's new coalition to grant more control to pro-settler lawmakers. Days before he steps down, Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi criticised the coalition agreements with hardline Jewish settler activists who seek to entrench Israeli rule in the West Bank. AP

NEW YORK

Trump Organisation fined $1.6 million for income tax fraud



AP

Donald Trump's company was fined $1.6 million on Friday for a scheme in which the former President's top executives dodged personal income taxes on lavish job perks. A fine was the only penalty a judge could impose on the Trump Organisation after its conviction in last month for 17 tax crimes. AP

BEIJING

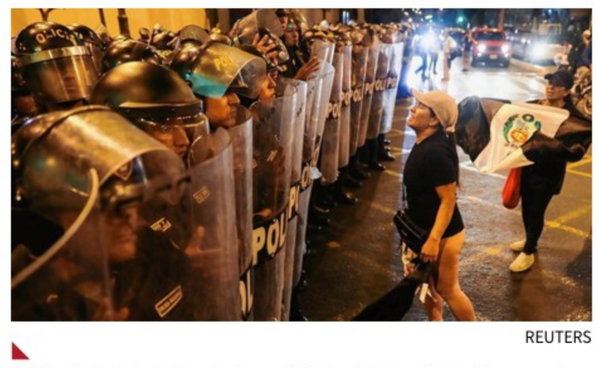
China operates first domestic Boeing 737 MAX flight since 2019

REUTERS

A Boeing 737 MAX took off from southern China on Friday, the first domestic flight using the aircraft model since March 2019 when it was grounded after two deadly crashes. China was among the first countries to ground the plane after two fatal accidents in 2018 and 2019, and was the last major Boeing market to rescind the ban. AFP

CUSCO

Peru closes Machu Picchu airport as nationwide protests persist



REUTERS

Rail and air links to Peru's famed Machu Picchu site had been cut early on Friday after a flare-up in weeks-long protests that has killed dozens. The airport in Cusco, gateway to Peru's tourism crown jewel, was closed as protests kicked off in the city, leading to clashes with police. AFP

Russia claims capturing of Soledar, Ukraine denies

This is Moscow's first claim of victory in months after battlefield setbacks; Defence Ministry says this would lead to 'more successful operations'; Kyiv says severe fighting is still going on in the town

Agence France-Presse
KRAMATORSK

Russia said on Friday its forces had wrested control of the war-scarred town of Soledar in east Ukraine, Moscow's first claim of victory in months of battlefield setbacks.

"On the evening of January 12, the liberation of the city of Soledar was completed," the Defence Ministry announced, claiming this would pave the way for more "successful offensive operations" in Donetsk.

Ukraine denied the Russian claim and said "severe fighting" was on in the nearly completely destroyed town that is now the epicentre of the war. "Ukraine's armed forces have the situation under control in difficult conditions," said Sergiy Cherevaty, a spokesman for the eastern group of the Ukrainian armed forces.

Both sides have conceded heavy losses, with Moscow eager to sell any win back home after repeated battlefield setbacks and Ukraine desperate to hold and win back ground.

No respite: A Russian self-propelled 152.4 mm howitzer Msta fires during a mission at an undisclosed location in Ukraine. AP

Moscow's announcement came as the UN Security Council was preparing to meet to discuss the war. Ukraine's Deputy Defence Minister said earlier that Russia had "relocated almost all of its main forces to the Donetsk front" to ensure Soledar's capture.

"This is a difficult phase of the war," Ganna Malyar conceded.

The Russian mercenary group Wagner has claimed that it spearheaded the offensive for Soledar and already announced this week that its forces were controlling it.

But both the Kremlin and the Russian Defence Ministry said fighting was ongoing at the time, an indication of the fractious Russian groupings involved in the fight.

President Volodymyr Zelensky vowed on Thursday that Ukrainian forces defending Soledar and Bakhmut would be armed with everything they need in some of the bloodiest battles of the war. Observers are divided over the strategic significance of Soledar, a salt mining town with a pre-war population of around 10,000 people.

It could act as a bridgehead for Russia to develop its offensive for Bakhmut, a larger town nearby that Russian forces have been attacking for months.

The Russian defence ministry said Friday that Soledar's capture "makes it possible to cut off the supply routes of Ukrainian troops" there and surround them.

Moscow's last major gains were in June and July ear with the capture of Lysychansk and Severodonetsk in the eastern Lugansk region. It has suffered several key defeats since, including its retreat from Kherson city.

The U.S.-based Institute for the Study of War (ISW), a military observation group, said in an analytical note that Russian forces had likely already captured Soledar on Wednesday. "But this small-scale victory is unlikely to presage an imminent encirclement of Bakhmut," it cautioned.

NATO to send aircraft to Romania to track Russians

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

NATO will send surveillance aircraft to Romania to bolster its eastern flank and "monitor Russian military activity", the alliance said on Friday.

The military alliance has strengthened its presence in the region since Russia invaded Ukraine, which borders Romania, a NATO member. "Our AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System planes) can detect aircraft hundreds of kilometres away, making them a key capability for NATO's deterrence and defence posture," spokesperson Oana Lungescu said.

The planes will arrive on Tuesday in Otopeni and are part of a fleet of 14 NATO Boeing E-3A AWACS aircraft in Geilenkirchen.

Special Counsel to probe Biden classified documents

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The U.S. attorney-general named an independent prosecutor on Thursday to investigate President Joe Biden's handling of classified documents, after a furore over secret papers found at his former office exploded with the discovery of a second batch.

The new find - like the original, from Biden's time as Vice-President - was uncovered in the garage of his home in Wilmington, Delaware, where he often spends weekends, the White House said.

Attorney-General Merrick Garland announced that Robert Hur, an appointee of Mr. Biden's predecessor Donald Trump, would be empowered to examine whether the cache violated any law.

"Under the regulations, the extraordinary circumstances here require the appointment of a special counsel," Mr. Garland said.

Robert Hur

The appointment came hours after the White House acknowledged the second batch of papers but did not address their contents - supercharging a scandal over a first set found at a Washington think tank where Mr. Biden had an office.

Republicans in Congress, who have been accusing the White House of a cover-up, swiftly announced their own inquiry to run independently of the criminal probe.

The disclosures have prompted comparisons to the special counsel investigation of Mr. Trump's hoarding of hundreds of classified materials at his Florida beachfront home and his alleged obstruction of government efforts to get them back.

"I take classified documents and classified material seriously. We're cooperating fully (and) completely with the Justice Department's review," Mr. Biden told reporters.

"As part of that process, my lawyers reviewed other places where documents from my time as Vice-President were stored, and they finished the review last night."

Sri Lanka decides to cut its Army by half

Agence France-Presse
COLOMBO

Bankrupt Sri Lanka will drastically slash its military, the Defence Ministry said on Friday, as the government works to overhaul its shambolic finances after an unprecedented economic crisis.

The Island nation is still reeling from months of food and fuel shortages that made daily life a misery for its 22 million people last year. President Ranil Wickremesinghe has hiked taxes and imposed harsh spending cuts to smooth the passage of an expected International Monetary Fund bail-out following a government debt default.

Sri Lanka's armed forces are next on the chopping block, with the Defence Ministry announcing it would retire 65,000 soldiers from its 200,000-strong Army over the year.

The cuts make up the lion's share of plans to downsize Sri Lanka's land forces to 100,000 by the end of the decade.

Japan indicts suspect for Abe's murder

Reuters
TOKYO

Tetsuya Yamagami

Japanese prosecutors on Friday indicted the man suspected of killing former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a local district court said on Friday. Nara District Public Prosecutors Office indicted Tetsuya Yamagami, 42, on murder charges and for violating gun laws, a spokesperson at Nara district court said.

The indictment came after concluding a roughly six-month psychiatric evaluation, according to local media. Yamagami had been arrested on the spot on July 8 after allegedly shooting Abe with a handmade gun while he was giving a speech in Nara.

Lisa Marie Presley, daughter of Elvis, dies

Associated Press

Lisa Marie Presley, the only child of Elvis Presley and a singer-songwriter dedicated to her father's legacy, died Thursday after being hospitalized for a medical emergency. She was 54.

Her death in a Los Angeles hospital was confirmed by her mother, Priscilla, a few hours after her daughter was rushed to the hospital by paramedics after a medical episode at her home. "It is with a heavy heart that I must share the devastating news that my beautiful daughter Lisa Marie has left us," Priscilla Presley said in a statement. "She was the most passionate, strong and loving woman I have ever known."

Lisa Marie Presley

Presley shared her father's brooding charisma – the hooded eyes, the insolent smile, the low, sultry voice – and followed him professionally, releasing her own rock albums in the 2000s, and appearing on stage with Pat Benatar and Richard Hawley among others. She even formed direct musical ties with her father, joining her voice to such Elvis recordings as "In the Ghetto" and "Don't Cry Daddy," a mournful ballad which had reminded him of the early death of his mother, Gladys Presley.

"It's been all my life," she told *The Associated Press* in 2012, speaking of her father's influence. "It's not something that I now listen to and it's different. Although I might listen closer. I remain consistent on the fact that I've always been an admirer. He's always influenced me."

Her birth, nine months exactly after her parents' wedding, was international news and her background was rarely far from her mind.

She was at the Golden Globes, on hand to celebrate Austin Butler's award for playing her father. Just days before, she was in Memphis at Graceland – where Elvis lived, and died – on Jan. 8 to celebrate her father's birth anniversary.

INBRIEF

NCLT allows transfer of Jet to Jalan-Kalrock consortium

In a relief to the Jalan-Kalrock consortium which had won the bid to acquire Jet Airways via the IBC route, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Friday ordered transfer of ownership of the grounded airline to the consortium in compliance with the resolution plan approved by it previously. "We await the detailed judgment that follows this order to provide further details, if any, on the matter," the consortium said.

NDTV says president, other senior executives have quit

New Delhi Television Ltd. (NDTV) said on Friday that some more of its senior executives, including president Suparna Singh, had resigned, a move that comes less than a month after the Adani Group took control of about 65% of the Indian broadcaster. NDTV's chief strategy officer Arijit Chatterjee and chief technology and product officer, Kawaljit Singh Bedi, also quit, among resignations that came after founders Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy left the company's board in December 2022. REUTERS

Crypto akin to gambling, has only make-believe value: Das

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday reiterated his call for an outright ban on cryptocurrencies, saying these were "nothing but gambling" and their perceived "value is nothing but make-believe." To further its opposition to such currencies and also to take a lead over other central banks, the RBI recently unveiled its central bank digital currency, in the form of the e-rupee in pilot mode, first for the wholesale segment late last October and a month later for retail customers. PTI

India's trade deficit with China races beyond $100 bn

India's 2022 imports from neighbour rise 21% but exports to China contract to $17.5 billion; China's total foreign trade for the year surge to a record high, increasing by 7.7% to $6.25 trillion, data show

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

India's bilateral trade with China reached a record $135.98 billion in 2022, Chinese Customs data showed on Friday, driven by surging Indian imports of Chinese goods that were up by more than 21% last year.

India's exports to China, however, fell in 2022, driving an already significant trade deficit beyond the $100 billion-mark for the first time. Figures released by the General Administration of Customs (GAC) in Beijing showed two-way trade was up by 8.4% last year to $135.98 billion, with India's imports accounting for $118.5 billion, up from $97.5 billion.

India's exports to China fell from $28.1 billion to $17.48 billion. The trade deficit reached $101.02 billion, up by 45%, from $69.4 billion in 2021.

China's total foreign trade in 2022 hit a record high, up 7.7% to $6.25 trillion. Exports climbed 10.5%. Trade with ASEAN, China's biggest trading partner, increased 11.2% to $975.34 billion. The EU ranked second among China's trading partners, with trade up 2.4% at $847.32 billion, followed by the U.S., with trade up 0.6% to $759.42 billion.

For India, trade last year surpassed what was a record year in 2021, on account of demand recovery in India, spurring imports of intermediate goods, and of new categories such as medical supplies.

Trade imbalance

Chinese customs data on Friday showed bilateral trade had climbed 8.4% last year to $135.98 billion

- India's imports accounted for $118.5 billion of 2-way trade, up from $97.5 billion the previous year
- India's exports to China fell from $28.1 billion to $17.48 billion
- Trade deficit widened to $101.02 billion, up by 45%, from the $69.4 billion seen in 2021

Forex reserves dip $1.27 bn in week to Jan. 6

Reuters
MUMBAI

India's foreign exchange reserves fell to $561.58 billion in the week through January 6, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) statistical supplement showed on Friday.

For the week ended December 30, the country's reserves were at $562.85 billion, down from $633.61 billion at the end of 2021.

The central bank has been intervening in the spot and forwards market to protect the rupee and prevent a rapid depreciation. The RBI, in the past, has said that changes in reserves also stem from valuation gains or losses.

'Credit growth will taper if deposits lag'

Axis Bank MD says the bank forecasts credit growth will slip to 12-13% unless deposits pick up

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

The handsome credit growth witnessed at present will taper down next year if deposit growth continues to lag behind, Axis Bank chief executive and MD Amitabh Chaudhry said on Friday.

Mr. Chaudhry also advised some caution to be exercised by the system as it witnesses high growth at present, saying decisions made today should not haunt the sector 5-7 years down the line.

"If the deposit growth does not continue, our projection says that credit growth can taper down in the next year," Mr. Chaudhry said, speaking at Business Today's Banking and Economic Summit here.

The bank's economists are projecting that credit growth will come down to somewhere about 12-13% unless something happens on the deposit side, he added. Mr. Chaudhry said the next 5-7 years looked great for India.

Dr. Reddy's buys Pfizer's breast cancer drug rights

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories said it has acquired trademark rights of breast cancer drug Primcyv from Pfizer Products India.

Dr. Reddy's had already been marketing the drug in the country since May 2022.

With acquisition of the rights, the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) and finished drug will be manufactured at its U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved facilities.

Wipro Q3 profit rises 2.8% to ₹3,053 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Wipro Ltd. on Friday reported a 2.8% increase in net profit to ₹3,053 crore for the third quarter ended December compared with the year-earlier period.

Revenue expanded 14.3% to ₹23,229 crore. For FY23, Wipro projected its IT services revenue to be in the range of 11.5% to 12% in constant currency terms.

Total bookings were over $4.3 billion, led by large deal signings of more than $1 billion, said CEO and MD Thierry Delaporte said.

"We are continuing to gain market share as a result of deepening client relationships and higher win rates," he said.

He pointed out that although macroeconomic uncertainty continued, tech spending remained robust.

The company said it had also improved margins by 120 basis points from the previous quarter after accounting for salary increases, promotions, and long-term incentives for senior leadership.

Attrition rate moderated to 21.2%. At the end of Q3, employee count had slid to 258,744 from 259,179 in the previous quarter.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	FRIDAY	%CHANGE
Sensex	60,261	0.51
US Dollar	81.35	-0.06
Gold	56,236	0.27
Brent oil	84.4	0.54

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3721.15	73.95
Adani Ports	794.65	1.70
Apollo Hosp	4335.55	-24.20
Asian Paints	2909.15	-6.80
Axis Bank	934.15	-1.40
Bajaj Auto	3605.30	35.00
Bajaj Finserv	1391.15	3.35
Bajaj Finance	5977.80	79.40
Bharti Airtel	764.30	7.40
BPCL	350.10	5.05
Britannia Ind	4336.10	36.85
Cipla	1067.75	6.60
Coal India	215.10	1.20
Divis Lab	3351.70	46.40
Dr Reddys Lab	4320.40	9.80
Eicher Motors	3162.05	58.80
Grasim Ind	1655.10	12.70
HCL Tech	1077.80	6.15
HDFC	2621.65	8.85
HDFC Bank	1600.65	1.25
HDFC Life	604.50	6.10
Hero MotoCorp	2728.45	34.20
Hindalco	488.50	2.85
Hind Unilever	2624.00	33.95
ICICI Bank	873.45	12.80
IndusInd Bank	1234.40	25.25
Infosys	1503.65	23.05
ITC	328.75	-1.10
JSW Steel	768.50	5.05
Kotak Bank	1780.30	0.80
L&T	2153.40	-6.35
M&M	1328.15	8.25
Maruti Suzuki	8453.40	84.20
NestleIndia	19784.35	-88.90
NTPC	167.80	1.85
ONGC	146.95	0.80
PowerGrid Corp	214.00	0.50
Reliance Ind	2467.60	-4.00
SBI Life	1312.95	-2.75
State Bank	600.10	5.20
Sun Pharma	1031.60	-1.25
TataConsumerProduct	752.90	-1.35
Tata Motors	411.50	-0.75
Tata Steel	120.45	2.35
TCS	3374.55	40.20
Tech Mahindra	1003.15	1.60
Titan	2417.20	-29.40
UltraTech Cement	7248.90	95.55
UPL	718.80	1.00
Wipro	393.90	-0.60

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 13

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.13	81.45
Euro	87.86	88.21
British Pound	99.10	99.50
Japanese Yen (100)	63.15	63.41
Chinese Yuan	12.08	12.13
Swiss Franc	87.48	87.83
Singapore Dollar	61.37	61.63
Canadian Dollar	60.75	60.99
Malaysian Ringitt	18.72	18.79
Australian Dollar	56.56	56.79

Source:Indian Bank

Sport

Djokovic 'a bit emotional' after warm return

Vibing with fans: Djokovic poses for a selfie after the Arena Showdown charity match against Kyrgios at Melbourne Park. GETTY IMAGES

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Novak Djokovic was "a bit emotional" after receiving a warm welcome Friday on his return to Melbourne Park, before facing Nick Kyrgios in a sell-out Australian Open exhibition match.

All 15,000 seats at Rod Laver Arena sold out in 58 minutes, with proceeds going to charity, ahead of the first Grand Slam of the year on Monday.

Djokovic, who was deported a year ago, was given a good reception when he went on to win an Adelaide warm-up tournament last week and it was a similar story at Rod Laver Arena, where he is a nine-time champion.

"Thank you so much, feel a bit emotional right now to be honest," the former world number one from Serbia told the crowd after his entrance on court was met by cheers and applause.

"I was really looking forward to coming back to this court, so thank you all you guys for coming out tonight for a great cause," said the 35-year-old, one of the best men's tennis players of all time.

Djokovic has dominated the Australian Open since his maiden triumph in 2008 but he had his visa cancelled 12 months ago and was deported on the eve of the tournament because of his stance on Covid vaccines. In a lighthearted encounter against Australia's Kyrgios, Djokovic wore tape for a left hamstring issue which saw him curtail a practice match against Daniil Medvedev this week.

But he appeared to have no trouble with his movement against Kyrgios and said beforehand that he was "feeling good". Kyrgios also allayed concerns about an ankle injury which has hampered his preparations.

They each won one shortened set before concluding the friendly knockabout with a tiebreak that also included wheelchair players David Wagner and Heath Davidson.

Djokovic and temperamental showman Kyrgios used to have a frosty relationship.

But that has thawed considerably after Kyrgios became one of the few players to come out publicly and support Djokovic as he unsuccessfully fought deportation in January 2022. They met in the Wimbledon final last year, with Djokovic winning in four sets for his 21st Grand Slam.

Shubankar wins J.B. Mallaradhya Memorial Trophy

BENGALURU: Mr. Laksh Bhatia's Shubankar (Akshay Kumar up) won the J.B. Mallaradhya Memorial Trophy, the feature event of the races held here on Friday (Jan 13). The winner is trained by Warren Singh.

THE RESULTS

1. HOOGHLY PLATE (Div. II): **MASTER OF SUCCESS** (Sai Kiran) 1, Max Mueller (L.A. Rozario) 2, Estella (Likith Appu) 3 and Altamonte (Vivek) 4. Not run: Regal Force. 1/2, 2-3/4 and Nose. 1m 16.08s. Rs. 33 (w), 12, 25 and 15 (p), SHP: 66, THP: 53, FP: 377, Q: 97, Trinella: 1,011, Exacta: 2,089. Favourite: Master Of Success.
Owner: Mr. B.E. Vasanth Kumar. Trainer: Sharat Kumar.

2. MAHADAYI PLATE (Div. II): **SEA BLUSH** (Srinath) 1, Stunning Beauty (Sai Kiran) 2, Art Power (Sandesh) 3 and Baroness (Kiran Rai) 4. 2-1/4, 1/2 and 1/2. 1m 27.62s. Rs. 22 (w), 13, 27 and 12 (p), SHP: 94, THP: 52, FP: 213, Q: 310, Trinella: 1,687, Exacta: 5,681. Favourite: Sea Blush.
Owners: Mr. M. Sridhar & Mr. Pradeep Kumar R. Trainer: Warren Singh.

3. MURUDESHWARA PLATE (Div. II): **STARS ABOVE** (S. John) 1, Oxytocin (Sai Kiran) 2, Double Vision (Salman K) 3 and Princess Jasmine (L.A. Rozario) 4. Not run: Peridot. 2-1/2, 1-1/4 and 1-1/4. 1m 14.77s. Rs. 36 (w), 12, 13 and 45 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 98, FP: 144, Q: 55, Trinella: 1,405, Exacta: 3,936. Favourite: Princess Jasmine.
Owners: Mukteshwar Racing LLP, Mr. Puneet Singh & Mr. Anirudh Chaudhry. Trainer: Arjun Mangalorkar.

4. KALLATHIGIRI FALLS PLATE: BALOR (S. John) 1, Ripple N Storm (Akshay K) 2, Armory (Kiran Rai) 3 and Galloping Ahead (Srinath) 4. 3, 5-1/2 and Lnk. 1m 39.30s. Rs. 33 (w), 13, 14 and 14 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 38, FP: 68, Q: 54, Trinella: 1,046, Exacta: 5,692. Favourite: Ripple N Storm.
Owner: Mr. Gautam Maini. Trainer: Darius Byramji.

5. MURUDESHWARA PLATE (Div. I): **ISNT SHE BEAUTIFUL** (Sandesh) 1, Archway (Trevor) 2, Lauterbrunnen (Kiran Rai) 3 and Striking Point (Adarsh) 4. Not run: Aguila and Knotty In Blue. 3, 1-3/4 and 2. 1m 13.82s. Rs. 11 (w), 10, 11 and 19 (p), SHP: 15, THP: 33, FP: 14, Q: 13, Trinella: 44, Exacta: 130. Favourite: Isnt She Beautiful.
Owners: Mr. P.J. Vazifdar, Mrs. P.J. Vazifdar, Mr. M. Rishad & Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala and M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

6. CORDON BLEU TROPHY: GALAHAD (Trevor) 1, Mazal Tov (Srinath) 2, Momentous (Darshan) 3 and Prana (Akshay K) 4. 3, 3/4 and 3/4. 1m 27.11s. Rs. 23 (w), 10, 13 and 58 (p), SHP: 34, THP: 141, FP: 61, Q: 26, Trinella: 1,671, Exacta: 2,688. Favourite: Galahad.
Owners: Sarainaga Racing Pvt Ltd, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala & Mr. S.R. Sanas and Mr. Inderraj Anand. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

7. J.B. MALLARADHYA MEMORIAL TROPHY: SHUBANKAR (Akshay K) 1, Etosha (Likith Appu) 2, Ruling Goddess (Trevor) 3 and Four Wheel Drive (Srinath) 4. 2-3/4, 5-1/2 and Nose. 1m 37.51s. Rs. 29 (w), 13, 13 and 11 (p), SHP: 32, THP: 54, FP: 70, Q: 22, Trinella: 247, Exacta: 471. Favourite: Etosha.
Owner: Mr. Laksh Bhatia. Trainer: Warren Singh.

8. MAHADAYI PLATE (Div. I): **AUGUSTO** (Arshad) 1, Classic Charm (Akshay K) 2, Lycurgus (Sai Kiran) 3 and Super Ruffian (Indrajeet S) 4. 1, 1 and 1-3/4. 1m 27.44s. Rs. 58 (w), 17, 16 and 18 (p), SHP: 44, THP: 62, FP: 259, Q: 85, Trinella: 894, Exacta: 8,694. Favourite: Classic Charm.
Owner: Mr. Maria Prashanth. Trainer: Kishan Thomas.

9. HOOGHLY PLATE (Div. I): **AIR DISPLAY** (L.A. Rozario) 1, Cash Out (S. John) 2, Chiraag (Tousif) 3 and Spirit Dancer (Darshan) 4. 2-1/4, 3/4 and 3-3/4. 1m 14.98s. Rs. 58 (w), 23, 13 and 24 (p), SHP: 36, THP: 63, FP: 106, Q: 55, Trinella: 578, Exacta: 3,157. Favourite: Cash Out.
Owner and trainer: Mr. S. Inayathulla.

Jackpot: Rs. 5,389 (27 tkts).

Runner-up: 430 (145 tkts).

Treble (i): 381 (11 tkts); (ii): 46 (159 tkts); (iii): 2,050 (four tkts).

Esha tops women's air pistol; Sarabjot beats Narwal; Sheoran at his brilliant best

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Esha Singh came up with a strong performance from start to finish to emerge on top in women's air pistol in the National shooting selection trials at the Dr. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad, on Friday.

After topping qualification with 581, two points ahead of Rhythm Sangwan, the 17-year-old Esha topped the semifinals with 249.3 and beat reigning National champion Divya T.S. 16-14 in the climax. Esha shot 10.0 to 9.9 by Divya, to clinch the top spot, after the two were tied 14-14.

In men's air pistol, Sarabjot Singh beat Shiva Narwal 17-11 for the top spot, after having qualified on top with 587.

In the men's rifle 3-position event, World Cup gold medallist Akhil Sheoran was brilliant as he beat Olympic quota winner Swapnil Kusale 17-11, after having scored an impressive 592 in qualification.

Olympian Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, who had topped the first trial, shot 594 in qualification but placed fifth eventually, behind Olympians Chain Singh and Sanjeev Rajput.

On target: Women's air rifle champion Esha flanked by Divya, left, and Yashaswini Deswal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results: 10m air pistol:

Women: 1. Esha Singh 16 (248.4) 581; 2. Divya T.S. 14 (249.3) 576; 3. Yashaswini Singh Deswal 247.8 (574); 4. Shikha Narwal 246.0 (573).

Junior women: 1. Sainyam 17 (250.1) 580; 2. Urva Chaudhary 15 (249.8) 575; 3. Lakshita 248.5 (571); 4. Divanshi 245.3 (570).

Men: 1. Sarabjot Singh 17 (254.9) 587; 2. Shiva Narwal 11 (254.7) 581; 3. Arjun Das 253.4 (581); 4. Varun Tomar 252.9 (581).

Junior men: 1. Amit Sharma 16 (253.5) 578; 2. Abhinav Choudhary 10 (254.7) 587; 3. Vivek 252.5 (578); 4. Shubham Bisla 250.1 (583).

50m rifle 3-position: Men: 1. Akhil Sheoran 17 (408.9) 592; 2. Swapnil Kusale 11 (408.2) 590; 3. Chain Singh 407.4 (584); 4. Sanjeev Rajput 402.0 (586).

Junior men: 1. Vedant Waghmare 17 (403.9) 579; 2. Sartaj Singh Tiwana 5 (400.8) 578; 3. Avinash Yadav 400.1 (582); 4. Ramanya Tomer 400.0 (577).

Prannoy loses, Satwik-Chirag duo moves up

MALAYSIA OPEN

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

Commonwealth Games gold medallist Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty played their hearts out to beat BWF World Tour Finals champions Liu Yu Chen and Ou Xuan Yi in three games to enter the semifinals of the Malaysia Open Super 750 badminton tournament here on Friday.

The Indian pair, seeded seventh, toiled to get the better of the Chinese duo 17-21, 22-20, 21-9 in the men's doubles quarterfinals. The duo will play another Chinese pair, Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang, in the last-four round.

Earlier, H.S. Prannoy went down fighting to World No. 7 Japanese Kodai Naraoka 16-21, 21-19, 10-21 in the men's singles quarterfinals.

This was Naraoka's third win over the Indian in as many meetings. He had defeated Prannoy in three games at the Singapore Open and World Tour Finals last year.

Axelsen in semifinals

World No. 1 Viktor Axelsen cruised into the semifinals, easily crushing Japan's Kenta Nishimoto 21-6, 21-12.

The Danish defending champion attributed his quick 38-minute win to an extra rest day, which he gained when his opponent in the previous round pulled out injured.

NO CASE

Ethics Officer dismisses 'Conflict of Interest' complaint against Binny

The BCCI Ethics Officer Justice (Retd) Vineet Saran has "dismissed" the 'Conflict of Interest' case filed against BCCI president Roger Binny, stating that complainant Sanjeev Gupta's claims were devoid of any "merit". Justice Saran also issued Gupta a stern warning.

KEY ABSENCE

Alyssa Healy to miss T20I series against Pakistan

Australia wicketkeeper Alyssa Healy has been ruled out of the upcoming three-match T20I series against Pakistan at home as she continues to recover from a calf injury. A statement from Cricket Australia confirmed that The Australian wicketkeeper is expected to be available for the T20 World Cup in South Africa in February.

RACE AGAINST TIME

Injured Handscomb fights to be fit for India tour

Australia's Peter Handscomb is in a race against time to recover for the India tour in February after suffering a hip injury while going for a pull shot in club cricket in Victoria on Tuesday. He retired hurt after collapsing three balls later following another pull shot. "Scans have confirmed soft-tissue damage in his right hip," a report said.

OUT OF THE BLUE

Badosa suffers injury scare days before Australian Open

Former World No. 2 Paula Badosa pulled out with a thigh injury before her Adelaide International semifinal on Friday. Badosa is seeded 11th at the year's first Grand Slam, the Australian Open, which begins on Monday. The 25-year-old Spaniard said she first felt the thigh problem in the Adelaide quarterfinals.

India starts its campaign with a fighting win against Spain

After a near-perfect performance from the host in the first half, the Spaniards start getting their act together; Abhishek gets sent off after an iffy tackle with 12 minutes left on the clock, putting immense pressure on the Indians

HOCKEY WORLD CUP

Uthra Ganesan
ROURKELA

Emotional roller-coaster: India's opening game lived up to its billing, creating moments of exhilaration and despair in equal measure. BISWARANJAN ROUT

It was never supposed to be easy. And India's opening game in the Hockey World Cup 2023 lived up to its billing, creating moments of exhilaration and despair in equal measure in front of the cheering 20,000-plus crowd at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium here on Friday before prevailing 2-0 against Spain.

On paper, India is ranked higher. And for more than 45 minutes of the match, the host played like one. There was complete dominance, total possession, relentless attack and multiple circle penetrations to keep Spain on the backfoot. One of those saw India's second penalty corner turning into goal, local boy Amit Rohidas slotting in a rebound after Harmanpreet Singh's shot was saved in the 13th minute. Exactly 13 minutes later, Hardik Singh's ball grab from the half line and a solo run past four defenders all the way to the backline ended in India's second goal, deflected off Pau Cunill's stick.

In between, Akashdeep Singh proved he still had the skills to steal balls with ease upfront and the Indian defence seemed unbreakable, hardly allowing Spain into the circle in the first 25 minutes. Goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak had a brilliant game and kept improving as the match progressed. It was towards the end of the 2nd quarter that the Spaniards began getting their act together to try and change the script. It almost worked in the second half.

They started closing down space, enforcing turnovers, breaking the field into small pockets - like during training - to control the game. India still held the upper hand with the forwards constantly earning penalty corners and nagging the opposition defence but Spain was managing to pry open an occasional gap.

Playing with 10 men for the last 12 minutes was the toughest period for India after Abhishek was sent off for an iffy tackle. Three back-to-back saves in open play and a penalty corner to boot proved Pathak's growing confidence. It was not the most convincing of wins but against a slippery opponent like Spain, India's performance was more than enough.

Today's matches
New Zealand v Chile, 1 p.m.
Netherlands v Malaysia, 3 p.m.
Belgium v Korea, 5 p.m.
Germany v Japan, 7 p.m.

The result: Pool D: India 2 (Amit Rohidas, Hardik Singh) bt Spain 0.

Hat-tricks by Craig, Hayward as Australia drubs France; Argentina pips South Africa

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

Typical Aussie onslaught: Craig began the rout with a lovely goal in the ninth minute. PTI

Forward Tom Craig and drag-flicker Jeremy Hayward's hat-tricks underlined World No. 1 Australia's class in its 8-0 victory over France in a Pool A match on the opening day of the Hockey World Cup at the Kalinga Stadium here on Friday.

Earlier, 2016 champion Argentina, posted a hard-earned 1-0 win over a fighting South Africa in the inaugural match of the 15th edition.

Tribute to Glencross
Wearing black armbands in tribute to Australian great Brian Glencross, who passed away last month, the Kookaburras' beautiful team work, featuring smart inter-play, resulted in the first goal. Craig capped the fine move with a lovely deflection in the ninth minute to mark the beginning of a typical Aussie onslaught.

Australia relied on player flair and organised approach to pump in three goals each in the second and third quarters. First Hayward displayed his command over penalty corner conversions, through a rebound and two direct flicks, and then Craig showed his opportunism in their hat-tricks.

Flynn Ogilvie's second-quarter strike and Tom Wickham's fourth-period goals were important components in Kookaburras' massive win even without forward Blake Govers, who is recovering from an injury he suffered in the Test series against India in December.

France, which named the versatile Timothee Clement in the reserves, could not utilise the seven penalty corners it won.

Compact defence
South Africa, with its compact defence, gave Argentina a run for its money in the first two quarters before the *Los Leones* managed to score through Maico Casella, who tapped in Lucas Toscani's shot in the 43rd minute.

The results: Argentina 1 (Maico Casella 43) bt South Africa 0; Australia 8 (Tom Craig 9, 32, 45; Flynn Ogilvie 27; Jeremy Hayward 27, 29, 39; Tom Wickham 54) bt France 0.

Clinical England proves too good for debutant Wales

Aashin Prasad
ROURKELA

Star player: England's Liam Ansell, left, came up with a brace. BISWARANJAN ROUT

A clinical England thumped debutant Wales 5-0 in the opening World Cup match of Group D at the Birsa Munda International Stadium here on Friday.

Wales was carved open repeatedly as England dominated all parameters of the game with Sam Ward pulling the strings in midfield.

England raced to a lead as early as 35 seconds when David Goodfield lifted the ball from his own half to catch the Welsh defence off guard. His pass found Ward upfield inside the circle and the midfielder turned and ran by the byline to square the ball for Nicholas Park to lift his finish past the goalkeeper.

After the opening goal, England was quicker in moving the ball with its passing and was able to find its players in space to progress higher up the field. Wales had its moments in the opening half, but every time the players penetrated the circle they were met with an England stick in their way.

The opening 30 minutes saw 11 penalty corners – seven in the last three minutes alone – with England enjoying all the efforts. Welsh custodian Toby Reynolds-Cotterill pulled off big saves to keep out most of the drag flicks but on the ninth instance, England switched to the second battery where Liam Ansell rifled in the finish.

Ansell got his second from another penalty corner when Ward cleverly flicked it behind to find the forward, who rode a challenge before smashing it into the net.

Before the end of the third quarter, England added a fourth when Phil Roper collected the ball just outside the circle and thundered a tomahawk hit past Reynolds-Cotterill. The goal was awarded after a video referral to confirm that the shot was taken on the line.

Wales registered its first shot on goal in the final quarter but it was England that finished strongly with a fifth goal of the night through Nicholas Bandurak.

The result:
England 5 (Nicholas Park 1, Liam Ansell 27, 37; Phil Roper 41, Nicholas Bandurak 57) bt Wales 0.

Jamshedpur fights back to overcome East Bengal

ISL-9

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Sawyer. ISL/FOCUS SPORTS

Jamshedpur FC recovered from a goal's deficit to stun home favourite East Bengal FC 2-1 in an ISL-9 football match played at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Friday.

East Bengal found the lead off its Brazilian striker Cleiton Silva while Jamshedpur struck through substitute Harry Sawyer and Ritwik Das in the second half.

This was Jamshedpur's second win in 14 matches for nine points and 10th spot in the table while East Bengal remained on ninth with 12 from 13.

East Bengal's lone goal came from a nicely coordinated counter-attack in the 12th minute.

Jamshedpur was a reformed side after the break as its coach Aidy Boothroyd decided to alter the team's attack bringing in three changes and introducing his new attacking combination in Australian striker Harry Sawyer and Ishan Pandita.

Jamshedpur found the equaliser in the 61st minute when Sawyer struck after Pandita's first attempt was blocked by East Bengal goalkeeper Suvam Sen. Jamshedpur continued with the momentum and found the winner off Ritwik in the 85th minute.

The result: East Bengal FC 1 (Cleiton Silva 12) lost to Jamshedpur FC 2 (Harry Sawyer 61, Ritwik Das 85).

Suryakumar, Ishan in squad for first two Australia Tests

CRICKET

Amol Karhadkar
KOLKATA

In the mix: Ishan and Suryakumar will hope to get into the playing XI when the Aussies come calling. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Suryakumar Yadav and Ishan Kishan have been called up to India's Test squad for the first two matches of the marquee series against Australia, starting next month while Prithvi Shaw has been recalled into the squad for the T20I series against New Zealand later this month.

The reconstituted panel headed by Chetan Sharma had its first formal selection meeting on Friday. A BCCI statement issued after the meeting confirmed that K.L. Rahul and Axar Patel – both set to tie the knot later this month – made themselves unavailable for the New Zealand series.

Return of Jadeja
Besides Suryakumar and Ishan, the Test squad also sees the return of allrounder Ravindra Jadeja, subject to him clearing the fitness test.

Jasprit Bumrah was not considered after breaking down yet again last week ahead of the ODI series against Sri Lanka.

Suryakumar, who scored successive 90s on his return to Ranji Tropy last month, was rewarded as the 17th member of the Test squad for his performances in the shortest format. He was a part of India's extended squad for the Test series in England in 2021.

Ishan earned his maiden call-up into the Test squad, with Rishabh Pant having been sidelined after being involved in a car accident.

Joust for debut
Ishan will compete with K.S. Bharat for a Test debut. The duo is also the designated pair of wicketkeepers for the ODI series against New Zealand.

Shaw, sidelined after the tour to Sri Lanka in 2021, was rewarded after his record-breaking innings of 379 for Mumbai against Assam in the Ranji Trophy this week.

The squads: ODIs against New Zealand: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Hardik Pandya (Vice-capt.), Shubman Gill, Ishan Kishan (wk), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar Yadav, K.S. Bharat (wk), Washington Sundar, Shahbaz Ahmed, Shardul Thakur, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, Umran Malik.
T20Is against New Zealand: Hardik (Capt.), Suryakumar (Vice-capt.), Ishan (wk), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Gill, Deepak Hooda, Rahul Tripathi, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Washington, Kuldeep, Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Umran, Shivam Mavi, Prithvi Shaw, Mukesh Kumar.
The first two Tests against Australia: Rohit (Capt.), K.L. Rahul (Vice-capt.), Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli, Shreyas, Bharat (wk), Ishan (wk), R. Ashwin, Axar Patel, Kuldeep, Ravindra Jadeja, Shami, Siraj, Umesh Yadav, Jaydev Unadkat, Suryakumar.
The itinerary: Vs. New Zealand: ODIs: January 18 (Hyderabad), January 21 (Raipur), January 24 (Indore).
T20Is: January 27 (Ranchi), January 29 (Lucknow), February 1 (Ahmedabad).
Vs Australia: Tests: February 9-13 (Nagpur), February 17-21 (Delhi), March 1-5 (Dharamsala), March 9-13 (Ahmedabad).

INBRIEF

ITF and Kosmos to end Davis Cup tennis partnership

The International Tennis Federation said on Thursday it was ending its widely-criticised partnership with the Kosmos group over the organisation of the Davis Cup, just five years after a deal worth $3 billion was signed. A 25-year deal was signed with Kosmos, owned by Spanish football star Gerard Pique, in 2018 but the revamped tournament has attracted widespread criticism over its format. Both sides could not reach a deal over the financial terms and ITF, it is learnt, will resume running of the tournament.

HP pacer Sidharth's stomach infection proves fatal

Himachal Pradesh's medium-pacer Sidharth Sharma, a key member of the State's Ranji team, passed away at a Vadodara hospital on Thursday. He was 28. Sidharth travelled with the team to Vadodara for HP's Ranji league match against Baroda scheduled from January 3 to 6. On the eve of the match he complained of stomach pain and was admitted to a hospital. On Thursday, his stomach infection deteriorated and he breathed his last around 9 p.m.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18-1, MTV (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 8.30 a.m.
BWF Malaysia Open: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 10.30 a.m.
Hockey World Cup 2023: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1, 3, 5 & 7 p.m.
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6, 8.30 & 11 p.m.
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Sunday).
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5.30 & 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Sunday).
Formula E: Mexico GP, SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Sunday).

BFC eyes back-to-back wins at home

Simon Grayson's side, which takes on Odisha, will be desperate for three more points as it seeks to keep alive its already faint playoff hopes

Time to come good: Roy Krishna needs to fire to bolster the BFC attack. ISL/FOCUS SPORTS

ISL-9

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Bengaluru FC will look to do what it hasn't managed all season – win back-to-back ISL matches – when it meets Odisha FC at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Saturday.

After the previous week's last-gasp 2-1 win over NorthEast United FC, Simon Grayson's side will be desperate for three more points as it seeks to keep alive its already faint playoff hopes.

The club has a paltry 13 points from 13 matches and is currently six points off sixth place. But with five of its remaining seven games to be played at home, Grayson believes his side has an outside chance of qualifying.

"Playing several of our remaining games at home is going to have an impact," the coach said on Friday. "It can be the difference in our efforts to get into the playoffs."

For this, the BFC attack needs to massively improve. Sunil Chhetri and Roy Krishna have scored just two goals between them. Youngster N. Sivasakthi, handed his first start in eight matches against NorthEast, accounted for his first goal and should keep his place in the eleven.

For Odisha, too, the tie is important to build back momentum after a mid-season blip. The Josep Gombau-coached side had a fine start, but went four games without a victory before beating East Bengal FC 3-1 in the last game.

In Nandakumar (five goals) and Diego Mauricio (seven goals and four assists) Odisha has firepower upfront. Already in fifth place with 22 points, a positive result will further brighten its playoff chances.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES (ROUND FIVE, FINAL DAY)

Elite: Group A: Baroda 269 & 98 lost to Bengal 191 & 179/3 in 61 overs (Sudip Kumar Gharami 76 n.o., Manoj Tiwary 60 n.o.). **Points: Bengal 6 (25), Baroda 0 (13).**

Odisha 191 & 374 lost to Himachal Pradesh 258 & 310/7 in 76.3 overs (Ankit Kalsi 165 n.o., Rishi Dhawan 102). **HP 6 (17), Odisha 0 (7).**

Uttar Pradesh 142 drew with Uttarakhand 172/4 in 53.3 overs (Kunal Chandela 56, Swapnil Singh 50 n.o.). **Uttarakhand 3 (23), UP 1 (9).**

Group B: Mumbai 687/4 decl. bt Assam 370 & 189 in 45 overs (Gokul Sharma 82, Roshan Alam 42 n.o.). **Mumbai 7 (23), Assam 0 (11).**

Andhra 459/9 decl. drew with Delhi 488/9 decl. in 147 overs (Dhruv Shorey 185, Hrithik Shokeen 45, Himmat Singh 104). **Delhi 3 (5), Andhra 1 (13).**

Maharashtra 446 & 364/5 in 90.3 overs (Rahul Tripathi 61, Ankeet Bawane 152 n.o., Azim Kazi 103 n.o.) drew with Tamil Nadu 404. **Maharashtra 3 (19), TN 1 (8).**

Group C: Jharkhand 103 & 366 bt Chhattisgarh 113 & 312 in 114.3 overs (Amandeep Khare 151, Anukul Roy 5/45). **Jharkhand 6 (16), Chhattisgarh 0 (13).**

Kerala 327 & 242/7 decl. bt Services 229 & 136 in 46.4 overs (Sufiyan Alam 52, Jalaj Saxena 8/36). **Kerala 6 (19), Services 0 (7).**

Group D: Jammu & Kashmir 212 & 260 in 63.4 overs (Musaif Ajaz 89, Fazil Rashid 46, Baltej Singh 5/45, Mayank Markande 4/61) lost to Punjab 268 & 210/6 in 24.5 overs (Abhishek Sharma 83, Mandeep Singh 45 n.o., Abid Mushtaq 4/56). **Punjab 6 (19), J&K 0 (6).**

Vidarbha 307/6 decl. drew with Chandigarh 16/1 in 5 overs. **Vidarbha 1 (13), Chandigarh 1 (3).**

Madhya Pradesh 312 & 280/6 decl. in 71.3 overs (Himanshu Mantri 65, Shubham Sharma 101 n.o., Rajat Patidar 57, Siddharth Desai 4/80) bt Gujarat 211/9 & 121/9 in 40.3 overs (Saransh Jain 4/64). **MP 6 (32), Gujarat 0 (14).**

Tripura 96 & 449 in 149.5 overs (Bishal Ghosh 42, Bikramkumar Das 62, Sudip Chatterjee 165, Rajat Dey 89, Wriddhiman Saha 53, Akash Pandey 4/105) lost to Railways 337 & 211/4 in 40.3 overs (Mohammad Saif 69 n.o.). **Railways 6 (14), Tripura 0 (7).**

Plate: Bihar 474 drew with Mizoram 176 & 379/6 in 110.4 overs (Taruwar Kohli 68, Shreevats Goswami 49, Joseph Lalthankhuma 43, Jehu Anderson 100 n.o., Avinash Yadav 81). Bihar 3 (14), Mizoram 1 (8).

Haryana boys, girls emerge champs

FENCING

Sports Bureau

Haryana won the overall championship in the boys and girls sections in the 24th National sub-junior fencing championship which concluded in Kochi on Friday.

The results (team event, final placings):
Boys: Epee: 1. Haryana, 2. Maharashtra, 3. Manipur & Delhi.
Girls: Sabre: 1. Haryana, 2. Manipur, 3. J&K & Delhi.
Foil: 1. Haryana, 2. Manipur, 3. Chandigarh & Maharashtra.
Overall championship: Boys: 1. Haryana (36 pts), 2. Maharashtra (13), 3. Tamil Nadu (13).
Girls: 1. Haryana (35), 2. Manipur (19), 3. Karnataka (16).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Bangalore Kings to meet Chennai Heats in final

Bangalore Kings entered the final of the Indian National Basketball League, following a 93-72 victory over Mumbai Titans at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium on Friday. In the summit clash, it will take on Chennai Heats that overcame Delhi Dribblers 72-67 after extra time.

The results:
Chennai Heats 72 (M. Aravind Kumar 21, Bala Dhanesh 14, Gineeb Binny 11) bt Delhi Dribblers 67 (Harsh Dagar 18, Piyush Meena 16, Lokendra Singh 10) [After extra-time; full-time score 60-60]; Bangalore Kings 93 (Pratyanshu Tomar 30, B.K. Anil Kumar 27, Abhishek Gowda 15, B.M. Manoj 13) bt Mumbai Titans 72 (Mandeep Singh 17, Sameer Qareshi 12, Vivek Goti 13).

No sweat for Bangalore Warriors

Bangalore Warriors FC blanked RS Sports FC 3-0 in the BDFA B-division football league, here on Friday.

The result: Bangalore Warriors FC 3 (Md. Rayan 2, Kevin Lourd Nadan 9, Mohit Singh 58) bt RS Sports FC 0.

Odisha triumphs

Odisha beat Karnataka by eight wickets to win the IndusInd Bank Women's National T20 Cricket Tournament for the Blind here on Friday.

Batting first, Karnataka was bowled out for 80 in 16.3 overs before the Odisha batters chased down the target in 12.2 overs.

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